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F R O M

ALEPPO to JERUSALEM,

B Y

Mr. HENRY MAUNDREL,
Chaplain to the English Factory at Aleppo.

T H E

T R A V E L S

O F

Dr. THOMAS SHAW, F.R.S.

A N D

A JOURNEY to PALMYRA.

D U B L I N :

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C O N T E N T S.

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An account of the Turkish accommodation ; our author arrives at Kefteen ; the plains thereof vastly populous ; a fine inn or Kane ; a very remarkable fissure ; brutality of the Aga of Bellulia ; a violent storm ; of the city Latichea ; some antient sepulchres.

✠✠✠✠ R. Maundrel set out from Aleppo
✠✠ M ✠✠ to visit Jerusalein, on the 26th of
✠✠✠✠ February, 1699, accompanied by
fourteen gentlemen belonging to the Eng-

lish factory, and lay that night at Honey Kane, about an hour and a half west of that city. In his setting out, he observes, that travellers must not expect to find inns, or market-towns here as in England, being obliged either to lie in tents, or in certain public foundations particularly adapted to their reception. Buildings of this nature stand almost every where, in the Turkish dominions, at convenient distances, where, for a trifling consideration, people are accommodated with a roof and bare walls; but if a man does not bring with him his own bedding, drink, and provision, he stands but a poor chance of being supplied with any. These places are built like cloisters; they are commonly thirty or forty yards square, and the Turks call them Kanes.

THE following day they travelled five hours, and passed by an old village, called Oo-rem, remarkable only for the ruins of a small church; and that night they encamped on the plains of Kesteen. These are of a vast extent, well cultivated, and covered with villages, of which, or something very like them, they counted twen-

ty-four, perceptible to the naked eye. The soil to the southward is of a reddish colour, loose, and quite free from stones; whereas to the westward there runs a high ridge of rocky hills, whereon there is not the least appearance of mold or earth.

KEFTEEN is a pleasant village, on the west of the plain, surrounded with corn-fields, and having such plenty of pigeons, that one may reckon more dove-cots than dwelling-houses. There are many ruins of old buildings, supposed to have been monasteries, among the mountains; and from the impression of a cross, and a Greek inscription upon a marble stone that is over the door of a bagnio, there is reason to believe that it formerly belonged to a Christian church.

FEBRUARY 28th, they rose early in the morning, having a long journey to make, and in three quarters of an hour came to a village, which terminates these fruitful plains. Here they crossed a small ascent, and steered their course through a pleasant valley, called Rooge, which runs east and west, being bounded on each side by very high mountains. In four hours they came

to a lake, over which they had some trouble to ferry their mules and other baggage; yet, at their return, they found the ground here so dry, that they could scarcely believe it to be the same spot.

AT Te-ne-ree, an hour's riding beyond this lake, they paid their first Caphar, a duty collected at several different passes to keep the roads in repair, and guard them from the incursions of robbers. These duties were first set on foot by the Christians; and the Turks take care in the demanding of them to impose upon such Franks as pass this way, in a most unreasonable manner: nay, instead of being a protection, they are sometimes the greatest nuisance.

THEIR stage this day was ten hours, in which they passed over the hills west of Rooge, and baited that night at Shoggle; it is a large disagreeable town, lying on the river Orontes, over which there is a bridge of thirteen arches. The water here is extremely rapid; very unwholesome; and the fish that it nourishes, is such bad food, that those of this company who chanced to eat of it, found themselves very much out of order the ensuing morning. They

here lodged in one of the best Kanes to be met with on the road; it was built by the second Cuperli; and here every traveller is supplied with a competent portion of bread, broth, and meat, which is always ready for those who chuse to ask for it, in which the country people are seldom backward: it was crouded with a number of Turkish Hadgees, or pilgrims, bound to Mecca, who deported themselves in a very peaceable manner.

THEIR next day's journey was pleasantly variegated with hills and dales, open plains, and enclosed roads; myrtles, tulips, marygolds, flowers of the most beautiful hue, and aromatic herbs bloomed in some places all around them; in others, the scene shifted, and was for a while wild, stony, and barren, while impetuous torrents rolled fiercely along, and perhaps discharged themselves over the tops of adjacent precipices.

IN a valley, which they rode through this day, there is a very remarkable fissure or crack in the earth, the depth of which is about thirty yards, and the breadth four; over it is a small arch, which our compa-

ny passed; there is something extremely horrid in the noise made by a stream which pours into this fissure, from the hill that commands it, and by the constant flux of which, it seems to have been cut out of the solid rock; the sides of it are smooth, perpendicular, and in some places waved. This narrow channel is called the Sheack's Wife, after a woman of quality who fell into it and perished.

MARCH 2d, they arrived, after about two hours riding, at the foot of a mountain called Occaby, which they clambered up with much difficulty; the way being steep and slippery, because of the moisture of the weather. Having reached the top of this hill, they found themselves in a well cultivated country, abounding with mulberries, and multitudes of silk worms. Here they came to a village, where the Kane was very bad and open to the weather: for this reason they visited the Aga, who had a house adjoining; and though they carried in their hand a handsome present, it was not without difficulty they prevailed upon him to afford them a dry corner.

THIS village is called Bellulia; and has

a few Christian inhabitants, whose church is so very poor, that here Christ may be once again said to be laid in a manger. It is a very dirty room, about four or five yards square; the ground an uneven pavement, and the ceiling a few rude traves covered with bushes; the altar is built with earth, and on the top of it are slates and pot-sherds, which gave it the air of a table: there is a small cross composed of two laths nailed in the middle, and on each side two or three old prints, representing the Holy Virgin, her Son, &c. These had been the gifts of some travelling friars: near a plank, which was supported by a post, and served for a desk, was a hole broke through the wall to give light to the reader. Yet mean as this building was, the people approached it with much reverence, making it the repository of their most valuable effects; and hanging their silkworm bags round about, thereby to receive a benediction.

MARCH 3d, they travelled four hours through very bad roads, it raining all the while very heavily; and then they arrived at a poor village called Sholfatia. Here runs a small river, which was now confi-

derably encreased by the wet weather. The houses of this place were so extremely dirty, the people and their cattle living promiscuously together, that the stench was intolerable: there being no intermittance of rain, it was impossible to encamp in the open country; there was no such thing as going back; and the river was not fordable; the rain rather encreased than diminished, while the lightning flashed from every quarter, and it thundered incessantly.

THEY now betook themselves to a rising-ground, where they proposed to pitch their tents, but were prevented by the severity of the weather; nor was their uneasiness on account of their servants and horses less than for themselves, when perceiving a small Sheek's house, or burying-place, at a distance, they entertained hopes of there finding shelter: but in this expectation they were disappointed; for the Turks absolutely refused them the favour they solicited, and swore they would die upon their swords, rather than permit the place at any rate to be entered by unbelievers. "To be true to Hamet and Ali," they said, "was their faith, by which they

“resolved to stand or fall, hating and renouncing Omar and Abu-Beker.” However, with good words they were at last prevailed upon to let them secure their baggage here; and at night, the travellers taking advantage of the darkness, stole in and spent some melancholy hours among the tombs. They were well satisfied to get any shelter, for it continued to rain heavily. The next day they received intelligence of a part of the river farther down, where it was fordable; and thither they immediately removed with their baggage, glad of an opportunity to quit this inhospitable covert.

HAVING crossed the river, they ascended a steep hill, from the top of which they had a view of the ocean, and of the city Latichea; which is very antient, and was formerly a place of great magnificence, but shared in the general calamities of this part of the world; of late, however, it has revived a little under Coplan Aga, a man of great property, much authority, and a lover of commerce.

THIS city lies close upon the sea, in a plentiful flat country, and is well situated

for trade; descending this hill, they kept the sea on their right hand, and the ridge of mountains on their left. Not far from the road, they discerned two stone cavities, each thirty feet long; the outsides of them were adorned with carvings of ox-heads, and inscriptions, the characters of which were eaten out by time. They appeared to have been tombs, and the stones which covered them had been thrown aside, by some persons who probably searched for treasure. There appeared to be several foundations of buildings in the neighbourhood; but whether or no this had ever been a place of any note, our author does not take upon him to affirm.

IN about an hour from these tombs they came to the banks of another river, which being swelled, again stopped their progress. It is dangerous venturing over these streams, which take their rise in the mountains, unless a man be well acquainted with the country, and knows in what particular places they are most shallow. However, at length they found a ford, and made the best of their way to Jebilee, leaving their baggage behind them, because



it hailed and rained excessively; and here they rested themselves most of the following day in a new Kane, built by Ostan Basfa, of Tripoli.

JEBILEE is a poor place, lying close by the sea-side in a plentiful country, and was formerly of more note than at present. In the time of the Greek emperors, it was a bishop's see, and Severian, the great enemy of St. Chrysoſtom, once filled the episcopal chair.

A CERTAIN sultan, Ibrahim, lies here in a mosque built by himself, close to which there is an alms-house. Though the Turks hold his memory in great veneration, they permitted Mr. Maundrel and his company to have a sight of it: there is a great wooden chest over his grave, covered with painted callicoe, reaching every way to the ground; and round it are hung large beads of ropes, that give it the appearance of a button-maker's shop. It is common among the Turks to shew their veneration for the dead, by hanging such ornaments round their graves. In this mosque are many pieces of superb church-furniture, brought hither from Cyprus; and

there is an elegant bagnio, together with a charming orange grove close to it, where travellers pitch their tents.

THE Turks are fully persuaded of the existence of this same Ibrahim, of whom no traces can be found in history; and they shew a grotto near the sea-side, wherein they affirm that he lived a solitary life, for twenty years after, having divested himself of regality. This grotto is hewn out of a rock, and lies in the midst of several sepulchres near the sea-side, where in former ages the people of this country used to inter their dead. They also point out an oratory, wherein there are three niches, in which he was accustomed to perform his devotions; these niches in size, fabric, and every other circumstance, are like such as we see made for statues. The mussulmen are always obliged when they pray, to turn their faces towards Mecca; perhaps these particular marks and directions are founded upon their iconoclastic principle, expressive of the reality and invisibility of the divine presence.

Two furlongs from this town, the Greek Christians performed their sacred service

in a rocky grotto, open towards the sea, upon the shore of which it lies; and the altar is a pile of stones. There is a huge mass of square stones at Jebilee, running a good way into the sea, which was formerly a mole for the use of shipping. The grand pillars and capitals of white marble which are here scattered up and down, are some proofs of the antient splendor of the place.

Just at the north gate are the ruins of a theatre, on one side of which the seats of the spectators remain still entire; but the Turks have blown up a part of it, and jammed up the rest with houses. The outward wall, built of large firm stones, is three yards three quarters thick, to which strength we may attribute its having been preserved from that absolute destruction carried every where with it by the Turkish barbarity.

IN the mountains above Jebilee there are a sort of people called Neceres, who have no particular religion, but always profess the same principles with the people that travel among them; with Jews

they are Jews; with Christians, Christians; and Turks with Turks.

MARCH 6th, our author left Jebilee, in hopes of better weather, of which there was some prospect; and in four hours arrived at the Balanea of Strabo, at present called by the Turks Baneas; and here they require a Caphar. This town lies upon a clear swift stream, a furlong from the sea, and is at present uninhabited; there are many square towers, and ruined buildings upon the road, which testify the antient populousness of the place.

AN hour beyond Baneas, there stands a castle upon a high hill, of the former strength of which the Turks tell a number of stories, enlarging much upon the sieges that it sustained; however, at present its strength appears to be but indifferent, and it is inhabited by some poor peasants. This probably is the Margeth mentioned by Adriconius, whither the bishops of Balanea translated their see, to avoid the insults of the Saracens.

THE next day they arrived at Tortosa, the antient Orthoesia, formerly a bishop's see, and frequently spoken of in the histo-

ries of the Holy War. On one side it is washed by the sea, and on the others it is fortified by a double wall of coarse marble, built in the rustic fashion. Between the walls is a ditch, as likewise is another encompassing the outermost wall; you enter this fortress on the north side, over an old draw-bridge, which lands you in a spacious apartment, now for the most part uncovered, but antiently well arched over, being the church belonging to the castle. On one side it resembles a church, and in witness of its being such, shews at this day several holy emblems carved upon its wall; as that of a dove descending over the place where stood the altar; and in another place, that of a holy lamb; but on the side which fronts outward, it has the face of a castle; being built with port-holes for artillery, instead of windows.

ROUND the castle on the south and east sides, stood antiently the city; it had a good wall and ditch encompassing it; but for other buildings, there is now nothing left in it, except a church, which stands about a furlong eastward from the castle; its walls, arches, and pillars are of a ba-

hard marble; and all still so entire, that a small expence would suffice to restore it again to a beautiful state; but it is a melancholy sight to Christians to see this place a foot deep in mire, and turned into a stall for cattle.

IN three quarters of an hour, or rather an hour, from Tortosa, they pitched their tents upon an eminence near Aradus; and not very far from the sea. Here they observed a dike stretching east and west, for more than a furlong, with parallel stairs cut all along its sides. It broke off about two furlongs from the sea, at a flat marshy ground. It is hard to say what could have been the use of this dike, and still harder to imagine that the water ever flowed up so high. Here is also a court fifty-five yards square, hewn out of a rock, part of which stands in the center, three yards high, and five and a half square, which serves as a pedestal to a throne erected upon it, composed of four large stones; one of each side, one at the back, and the fourth standing in place of a canopy; this last was five yards and three quarters square, with a carved cornice: perhaps this structure

might have been formerly a temple of Hercules, and the throne sacred to the idol, it being usual to worship him in the open air.

AT the distance of half a mile to the southward were two towers, into which our company made their way, through a strong opposition of weeds, rubbish, and briars. They found them to be divided into vaults, for the interment of the dead; some of them were eight feet and a half long; though we would not from thence infer, that the bodies which they were appointed to receive were of a gigantic stature; yet at the same time we cannot help thinking it strange, that men should be so prodigal of their labour, as to dig in these solid rocks farther than necessity required. Our author imagines, from the multitude of old foundations, sepulchres, and other remains of antiquity that abound here, this must have once been some very famous place, perhaps the Ximyra of Strabo, the same probably with the country of the Zemarides, mentioned in the tenth chapter of Genesis.

HAVING quitted viewing these antiqui-

ties, they bent their course towards Tripoli; being seven hours passing over a spacious plain, which was extremely fruitful, and finely watered with several streams, over which there was here and there a handsome stone bridge. As they drew near Tripoli, their muleteers were afraid to advance, lest their beasts should be pressed for public service, which was afterwards the case, in spite of every precaution, tho' they left them in the large plain before-mentioned, the name of which is Iunica, and arrived at Tripoli before sun-set. Here they staid a week, and found very generous treatment from Mr. Francis Hastings, the English consul, and a merchant of the name of Fisher. With the latter they one day dined by the side of a river, in a delightful valley, about a mile east of the city: across this valley there runs from hill to hill a noble aqueduct, carrying a sufficiency of water to supply all Tripoli; it is called the Prince's Bridge, and thought to have been the work of Godfrey of Boileign.



C H A P. II.

Tripoli described; the surprising ignorance of the Greek monks; a drole compliment made by one of them; their manner of spending their time; the manner of receiving visits in Turkey; of perfuming their beards; of some ruins noted by Casaubon; the river weeping blood; of the Maronites; of the place where St. George killed the dragon; an account of Emir Facardine; his palace, and its precincts described.

TRIPOLI stands about half an hour from the sea, having two hills, one to the east, upon which is a castle commanding the town; and another on the west, standing between it and the sea. This latter is said to have been at first raised from the sand of the shore, blown together in a heap, and daily encreasing in such a manner, that if old prophecies are to be believed, it will one day prove the grave of the whole city; of this, however, the inhabitants seem to be very little afraid.

ON the 11th of March our travellers dined with the consul, and were afterwards introduced to the bashaw of Tripoli, having secured themselves a welcome reception by a previous present. It is an old eastern custom at a visit to any great man, to carry an offering in token of respect, and to omit it, would be interpreted into an affront; nay, even among inferior people, you shall find them present each other with a flower, or an orange.

IN the afternoon of the 12th, they visited a great convent, called Belmount; it is founded upon a very high rock, scarcely accessible, having at top a fine prospect of the sea; their chapel is large, but dark, and their altar must be approached by none but their priest, which is customary in all the Greek churches. As the Turks have a special aversion to bells, these monks summon their congregation together by beating a rough sort of tune with two mallets on a plank at the church door.

THEIR service consists in a few prayers and hymns irreverently chattered out to our blessed Saviour and the holy Virgin: the priest compasses the altar several times,

perfuming it with a censer; and repeating the ceremony of presenting incense three times to each of the congregation. Five small cakes, with each a lighted wax taper stuck in the middle, are brought into the body of the church upon a small table, covered with a clean linen cloth; and then the priest reads the gospel, concerning our Lord's feeding the multitude with five loaves. These cakes are afterwards broken to bits, and in a basket presented to the congregation, each of which takes a little; this collation being over, the priest gives the benediction, and the whole is at an end. This is their evening service, and of it our author was an eye-witness. There are stalls round this church, such as are used by the fellows of the colleges in Oxford; and a pair of crutches hangs by the side of each, on which, when weary, they lean, it being against their rubric to sit during the celebration of service, which is very long. The young monks, as well as the old ones, make use of these, as in Spain they wear spectacles, rather through an affectation of gravity, than out of real necessity. There were forty

monks in this convent, who were good-natured and industrious, but so very ignorant, they could by no means account for any of the ceremonies used in their divine service. There is something extremely simple in the chief of them telling the consul, that had the Messiah himself honoured the convent with a visit, he could not have been more rejoiced. Neither their simplicity nor ignorance will be much wondered at, if we remember that he who officiates at the altar, is obliged to till the ground, to prune the vineyards, and to tend upon his flock; labours which they must necessarily undergo, to provide for their own sustenance, as well as to be able to satisfy the unreasonable avarice of the Turks, who are eternally exacting from and imposing on them.

You cannot perhaps have a better idea of these monks, than from being told, that he whom our author had seen celebrate divine service the preceding evening, came the ensuing morning with a kid and a borachio of wine upon his shoulders, being a present from the convent.

MARCH 13th, our company paid a se-

cond visit to the basha, and were received in a very courteous manner; for the Turks are neither strangers to the arts of civility nor of endearment: perhaps it may not be improper in this place to describe the ceremonies of a Turkish visit.

HAVING bespoke your reception by a present, the hour is appointed for you to attend; when coming to the house, you are met by a servant at the outer-gate, who conducts you to another domestic; thus you are passed to the master, who receives you either standing upon the edge or lying upon one corner of the Divan. The Divan is a stage raised in the best part of the room, about a foot and a half from the floor, spread with carpets, and bolsters whereon to lean; the Turks generally furnish them in the richest manner, and upon them spend most of their time, in eating, sleeping, praying and entertaining visitors. Being come to the side of the Divan, you slip off your shoes, and stepping up, take your place, which you do first at some distance, and upon your knees, laying your hands very formally before you.

THUS you must remain till invited to

draw nearer, and to put yourself in an easier posture. Being settled, the master of the house discourses as occasion offers; the servants standing round all the while in great order, and observing a profound silence. When you have talked over your business, or passed the usual compliments, he makes a sign for the entertainment; which generally consists of some sweetmeats, a dish of sherbet, and another of coffee, all which are immediately brought in by the servants, and tendered to every guest with the greatest respect. Indeed the servants have reason to look well to it, for should they make but the slightest mistake, it might subject them to a severe bastinado: the conclusion of the entertainment is perfuming the beards of the company; a ceremony which is performed thus:

THEY have for this purpose a small silver chaffing-dish, covered with a lid full of holes, and fixed upon a handsome frame; in this they put some fresh coals, and upon them a piece of *lignum aloes*; and then shutting it up, the smoke ascends through the holes of the cover. This chaffing-dish is held under every one's chin, and the

smoak offered as if a sacrifice to his beard. The bristly idol soon perceives the reverence done it, and so greedily engrosses the steam, that it retains the favour of it a good while after.

THIS ceremony may perhaps seem ridiculous at first hearing; but it passes among the Turks for an high gratification. And this may be said in its vindication, that its design is very wise and useful; for it is understood as a civil dismissal to the visitors, intimating that the master of the house has some avocation; and that the sooner they depart the better. By this means you may, at any time, without offence, deliver yourself from being detained from your affairs, by tedious and unseasonable visits; and from being constrained to use that piece of hypocrisy so common in the world, of pressing those to stay longer with you, whom perhaps in your heart you wish a great way off for having troubled you so long already.

HAVING finished their visit, they rode out to take a view of the port, which is half a mile distant from the city, open to the sea, and defended from the force of the

waves by two small islands, one of which abounds with birds, and the other with rabbits, from whence they severally derive their denomination.

THERE are six square towers built along the shore, at convenient distances, to secure the place from pirates; but they are void of arms and ammunition. There are some fine ruins in the fields that look to the sea, which confirm what Casaubon advances in his notes upon Strabo, viz. That here were formerly three cities standing in a cluster a furlong distant from each other, and we need not seek farther for the derivation of the word Tripoli.

ON the 15th, our company determined to pursue their journey, but were hindered, because the muleteers were not to be found, they having fled in a panic from the servants of the basha of Sidon, who were abroad, pressing mules for their master's service. However, about three o'clock they had furnished themselves with fresh beasts, and went forward, keeping close to the sea; which brought them to a high promontory, where they turned off to the left, and as night came on, pitched their

tents in a vale of olives. The next day they crossed the Cape near this promontory, which was very steep and rugged.

ON the other side of it they had an open view of the sea, and passed into a narrow valley; the entry of which is defended by a castle called Temseida. Half an hour after, they passed by Patrona, but there are few remaining marks of its having been a place of any considerable note. Three hours more brought them to Gibyle, called by the Greeks Bibulus, famous for the temple of Apollo, who is supposed here to have had his birth. It is encompassed with a dry ditch, a wall, and square towers, forty yards distant from each other; it was formerly a place of great extent, and very handsome, though at present it boasts nothing remarkable, but a few tumbling pillars, that are strewn up and down the neighbouring gardens.

HERE they passed over a fine bridge, and lay that night in their tents, by the water-side, during a storm of wind and rain, that was almost strong enough to blow them away. In the morning, they found the river of a bloody colour, proceeding doubt-

less from some red mineral that had been washed into it by the tempest. And thus we may see the foundation which Lucian has for asserting, that at certain seasons of the year, this river, which is doubtless the antient Adonis, though by the Turks called Ibrahim Bafa, weeps blood for the death of the favourite of Venus, who was killed by a wild boar; and this sympathetic fondness is more particularly manifested during the feast of that hero.

HAVING passed this river, they fell into a road lying between the steep mountains of Castravan, famous for its wines, and the sea, which is here called the Bay of Junia: towards the farther side of which was a large square tower; and buildings of this kind are said to extend along the coast, several days journey, having been erected by the empress Helena, as a defence against pirates. Here a caphar was collected from them by some Maronites, who are infinitely more insolent in office than the Turks. The Maronites inhabit all the neighbouring mountains, and on one of them there is a convent, where a certain bishop of these people, who claims the ec-

ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Aleppo, has his residence.

AN hour more brought them to the river Licus, otherwise Canis, called by the Turks Nahor Kelp; it takes its name from an oracular image, in form of a dog, which in antient times was here worshipped; its body is pointed out to strangers, lying with its heels upwards in the water; but they tell you that the head is preserved as a curiosity even to this day at Venice. Modern geographers confound this river with Adonis, though experimental observation point out very plainly the difference.

NEAR this is a good bridge of four arches, and close to the foot of it an inscription in Arabic, setting forth that it was the work of Emir Facardine, of whom we shall have occasion to speak more largely anon. Being over the river, you ascend a rocky mountain, by means of a passage, cut thro' it at the expence of the emperor Antoninus; otherwise there would have been no passage between this and the sea. The memory of the founder of so useful a work is preserved in an inscription cut in the rock itself. Here are some signs that there

was formerly an older road, and several figures of men as large as life carved upon the rock in mezzo rilievo, under which there were formerly explanatory characters; but these are blotted out by time.

MR. Maundrel regrets his having been hurried away before he had leisure to satisfy his curiosity with a sufficient view of these antiquities, his company quitting the place on account of the storm.

FARTHER on upon the banks of the river Beroote, there is a chapel sacred to St. George, who is said to have here killed the Dragon; but it is now turned into a mosque.

THE day following they spent at Beroote, being credibly informed that the river Damers, which lay in their next stage, was so encreased by the late rains, that it would be impassable. This place was called antiently Berytus, from which the idol Baal Berith is supposed to have had its name; it afterwards had many privileges conferred upon it by Augustus, together with a new name, viz. Julia Felix. At present it retains nothing of its ancient felicity, except the situation, and in that parti-

cular it is indeed very happy. It is seated on the sea-side, in a soil fertile and delightful, raised only so high above the water, as to be secure from its overflowings, and from all noxious and unwholesome effects of that element.

It has the benefit of good fresh springs, flowing down to it from the adjacent hills, and dispersed all over the city in convenient and neat fountains; but besides those advantages, it has at present nothing else to boast of.

THE Emir Facardine has his chief residence in this place; in the reign of sultan Morat, he was the fourth emir, or prince of the Druses, a people supposed to have been descended from some dispersed remainders of those Christian armies that engaged in the Crusades for the recovery of the Holy Land; who afterwards being totally routed, and despairing of being able to return to their native country, betook themselves to the mountains. Facardine, the prince of those people, not contented with being cooped up in a corner, by his power and artifice enlarged his dominions

down into the plain, all along the sea-coast, as far as from this place to Acra.

THE grand seignior at length growing jealous of such a swelling power, attacked and drove him back to the mountains from whence he had broke loose; and there his posterity maintain their sovereignty to this day. Our travellers went to view the palace of the prince, which stands on the north east part of the city. At the entrance of it is a marble fountain, of greater beauty than is usually seen in Turkey. The palace within consists of several courts, which are falling to ruin, and many of them appear never to have been finished. The stable-yards for horses, dens for lions, and other wild creatures, the gardens, &c. are such as would not be unworthy of a sovereign of Christendom, were they wrought up to that perfection of which they are capable, and to which they seem to have been designed by their first contriver.

THE best sight that this place affords, is the orange garden; it contains a large quadrangular plat of ground, divided into sixteen lesser squares, four in a row, with walks between them, delightfully shaded with

orange trees of a large spreading size, and all of so fine a growth, that nothing can be more perfect. At this time they were gilded with fruit, hanging thick upon them. Each of the sixteen lesser squares was bordered with stone, and in the stone-work were set well-contrived channels for conveying the water all over the garden; there being little outlets cut at every tree for the stream as it passed by to flow out and water it. Were this place under the cultivation of an European gardener of taste, it is impossible any thing could be made more delightful. But they were now applied to no better use than to serve as a fold for sheep and goats, insomuch, that in many places they were up to their knees in dirt: so little sense have the Turks of such refined delights as these, being a people generally of the grossest apprehension, and knowing few other pleasures but such sensualities as are equally common both to men and beasts.

ON the east-side of this garden were two terrace-walks, rising one above the other, each of them having an ascent to it of twelve steps. They had both several beautiful and

properly disposed shades of orange trees upon them. And at the north end were booths, summer-houses, and other charming apartments, being designed by Facardine for the chief seat of his pleasures.

It may perhaps be wondered how this emir should be able to contrive any thing so elegant and regular, seeing the Turkish gardens are usually nothing else but a confused olio of trees, jumbled together without art or design; so that they seem like thickets, rather than gardens. But Facardine had been in Italy, where he had seen things of another nature, and knew well how to copy them in his own country. For indeed it appears by these remains, that he must needs have been a man of abilities much above the ordinary level of a Turkish genius.

In another garden are to be seen several pedestals for statues; from whence it may be inferred, that this emir was no very zealous Mahometan. At one corner of the same garden stands a tower sixty feet high, designed to have been carried to a much greater elevation for a watch-tower, and for that end built with extraordinary

strength, its walls being twelve feet thick.

FROM this tower there is a good view of the whole city, and a large Christian church, said to have been first consecrated to St. John the Evangelist; but the Turks have turned it into a mosque, and will permit Christians to view it only at a distance.

ANOTHER church in the town there is, which seems to be antient, but being a mean fabric, is suffered to remain in the hands of the Greeks. It is adorned with abundance of old pictures; amongst the rest is that of Nestorius, who commonly makes one amongst the saints painted in the Greek churches, though they do not now profess, nor, in our author's opinion, so much as know his heresy. But that which is here most observable, is an old figure of a saint, drawn at full length, with a large beard reaching down to his feet. The curate called it St. Nicephorus; and observed, that he was a person of the most eminent virtues in his time; but his great misfortune was, that the endowments of his mind were not set off with the outward ornaments of his beard; a want that threw him into a deep melancholy, of which the

devil taking an advantage, promised to give him that boon which nature had denied, in case he would comply with his suggestions. The faint, though very desirous of the reward proposed, unwilling to purchase it at that rate, rejected the bribe with indignation, declaring resolutely, that he had rather for ever despair of his wish, than obtain it upon such terms. And at the same time, taking in his hand the downy tuft upon his chin, to witness the stability of his resolution, (for he had it seems beard enough to swear by) behold! as a reward for his righteousness he found the hair immediately stretch with the pluck that he then gave it; and finding it in so good a humour, he persisted to pull it, till he had drawn it down to his feet.

THERE are seven or eight granite pillars on the east of Beroote; and the town-wall on the south seems to have been formed out of the ruins of the old city; several pieces of pillars, and marble, entering into the composition. Without the walls are some remnants of mosaic flooring, broken pillars, pieces of polished marble, and mutilated statues; these lie in a heap of rub-

bish, which speak the former splendour of the place. There is an old ruined castle, and some remains of a mole on the sea-side.



C H A P. III.

Of the river Damer, and the adjacent country; of Sidon, and the duties of the French consul; of the antient and present state of Tyre; Solomon's cisterns accounted for, and described; of the fate of the city of Acra; heroism of the abbess and nuns of a Greek monastery; variance of the Arabs; how kept on foot.

THEY left this place on the 19th of March, and in their way to the banks of the Damer, passed over a plain, on which was a grove of pines, yielding a most delightful shade. They supposed it to be one of Facardine's plantations. To the left, they saw a small village, called Suckfoal; it belongs to the Druses, a race of people who overspread a tract of mountains, stretching from Castravan to Carmel. The

present prince Hamet is grandson of Facardine, and like his ancestors, never sleeps in the night-time, fearful of assassination; an act that may be more easily perpetrated in darkness than by day-light.

THE river Damer is apt to swell with sudden rain, and to become a torrent fatal to many a passenger. At this time it was very mild, and far from being dangerous. Here they found fellows stripped ready as it were to help them in crossing; but they did not chuse to accept of their assistance, having been previously advised of an easier ford, a little higher up, where they passed with very little difficulty. These guides impose considerably upon travellers, and scruple not drowning them for the sake of their spoils, if they have any opportunity.

IN two hours they came to the banks of another river, called Awle, which takes its rise in mount Libanus. The channel is deep, and over it a broad stone bridge. Here they met several French merchants, who belonged to the factory at Sidon; and these gentlemen conducted them to that city, without the walls of which they pitched their tents, by the side of a cistern.

THE French consul, and others belonging to the factory, inhabit a large Kane, near the sea-side, at the front of which there is an old mole, which Facardine caused to be filled up, to prevent the unwelcome approach of the Turkish galleys; so that ships are forced to ride under shelter of a small ridge of rocks, a mile distant from the city to the northward.

SIDON was formerly much more large and splendid than it is at present; however, it is well inhabited, and it is not unlikely, that many curious pieces of antiquity lie buried under the Turkish buildings. The French consul here is also styled consul of Jerusalem, and is obliged every Easter to visit that Holy City, in order to see that the poor Christians are not quite lost under the Turkish exactions.

OUR travellers had written to this gentleman from Aleppo, with a view to secure him as a partner in their expedition; but the delays they met with were such, that he had set out the day before their arrival.

MARCH 20th, they set out from Sidon, marching fast, in hopes to be able to overtake him; and passed by a ruined village,

supposed to be the antient Sarepta, famous for having been the habitation of the prophet Eliah. It consists of a few houses lying scattered on the top of a mountain, half a mile from the sea. Three hours more brought them to the banks of Casimeer; a broad, deep, meandering river, over which was formerly a good stone bridge, the piers of which are still standing; but the arches are broken down, and their places supplied with beams and planks very carelessly laid over. Here, notwithstanding our travellers passed with great precaution, one of their horses dropped through a hole, and was strong enough to swim on shore.

IN another hour they had sight of the city of Tyre. But alas! how fallen from that magnificence for which it was once renowned! how different from that Tyre mentioned by the prophet Ezekiel! And here we see a divine prophecy fulfilled, which said, that Tyre should be as the top of a rock; yea, as a place for fishers to dry their nets on: for the inhabitants are very few and very wretched, subsisting entirely upon fishing; there being not one house

entire; and the whole city is a pile of glorious ruins. Among these we find the east end of a large church still remain, which our author supposes, not improbably, to have been part of the cathedral built by Paulinus, who was bishop of this diocese. It is remarkable, that in a number of ruined churches, not fewer perhaps than an hundred, which lie between Aleppo and Jerusalem, the east end was generally left entire; to what cause to ascribe this preservation, our author does not pretend to affirm; whether it was the strongest part of the church, whether a part particularly revered by the Infidels, or whether the Christians ransomed it with money. From the top of a stair-case, in this last-mentioned ruin, they had a fine view of the island of Tyre, the city, the isthmus, and the adjacent shore.

THE island is covered with sand, and was formerly surrounded by a wall, standing upon the utmost boundaries of the sea; in its natural state it seems to be of a circular figure, with an area of about forty acres, and the foundation of the wall is still plain to be seen.

THEY went from this place to Roselayn, celebrated for the cisterns supposed to be built by Solomon, as a recompence for the materials supplied by king Hiram, towards the building of the temple; but there are many reasons to disprove this conjecture, for they are nothing near so antient.

ONE of them, lying a furlong and a half from the sea, is of an octagonal figure, twenty-two yards in diameter; nine yards above the ground on the south side, and six on the north. The walls of them are only gravel and small pebbles, but so strongly cemented, that one might be apt to mistake them for a single rock; on the brink you have a wall stretching round this cistern, eight feet broad, from which you descend by one step on the south, and by two on the north, to another walk twenty-one feet broad. This structure, though of such a breadth at top, is nevertheless hollow, and the water, which is exceeding good, flows in underneath; of it there is a very large mass, being well supplied from the fountain-head; and though the stream that issues from it turns four mills within a furlong and a half, the vessel is

always brim full. Both the contriver and constructor of these cisterns remain unknown, though that the work was well done is proved from their remaining, even to this day, in excellent order.

QUITTING Tyre, they crossed the White Promontory, through which there is a road two yards broad, supposed to be the work of Alexander the Great. It is cut through a mountain which overhangs the sea; and the steepness and depth, added to the raging of the waves at the bottom, render the subambient prospect extremely horrid.

THE road from hence to the plains of Acra, is dismal and rocky; however, the plains are well watered, pleasant and fertile, though for want of culture, over-run with weeds, which now in many places reached up to the bellies of the horses. In four hours more, they reached the city of Acra, lying in the neighbourhood of mount Carmel, being washed on the west by the Mediterranean, and on the east and north bounded by the plain.

THIS is one of those places out of which the children of Israel could never drive the antient inhabitants; it was once call-

ed Accho, but changed its name to Ptolemas, when enlarged by Ptolemy. In the wars between the Christians and the Saracens, this city sustained many a long siege, but at length was entirely subdued by the latter, who revenged themselves upon it for all the trouble it cost them, by laying it in ruins; and from this destruction it has never been able to recover.

FROM the remains of its walls, ditches, ramparts, and fortifications, it appears, that it was once a place of considerable strength. Here, among other ruins, are the remains of a large church, which formerly belonged to a nunnery, the abbess of which finding that the Turks had entered the city by storm, May 19th, 1291, summoned together the whole convent, and laying before them the most horrid picture of the insolencies to which they were doomed; of the affronts they must undergo from these barbarous spoilers; "From them," said she, "there is but one way to escape; and that is, by summoning all your resolution to follow my example." This they promised her faithfully to do, when taking up a knife, she mangled her features in fo

extraordinary a manner, that it was a sight horrible to behold. None of her flock were backward in using the same methods for the protection of their virtue; and thus they transformed themselves from the most perfect beauties into spectacles of horror and detestation.

THE Turks soon after broke into the convent, and being disappointed of the hopes which they had here of gratifying their lust, put every one of those brave heroines to the sword. At Acra, they had the satisfaction to find, that Monsieur l'Empereur, the French consul, had halted for them two days; with him they set forward on their journey the next day, convoyed by a band of Turkish soldiers. They took the middle way over the plain of Esdraelon, in order to avoid as much as possible falling in among the Arabs, who were at prodigious variance among themselves.

It is a policy of the Turks, always to sow divisions amongst these wild people, by setting up several heads over their tribes, often deposing the old, and placing new ones in their stead, by which art they cre-

ate contrary interests and parties amongst them, preventing them from ever uniting under any one prince; which if they should have the sense to do, (being so numerous, and almost the sole inhabitants thereabouts) they might shake off the Turkish yoke; and make themselves supreme lords of the country.

BUT however useful these discords may be to the Turks in this respect, yet a stranger is sure to suffer by them, being made a prey to each party, according as he happens to come in their way.





C H A P. IV. .

Of the first making of glass ; the dews of mount Hermon, mentioned in the holy scriptures, explained ; of Samaria and its revolutions ; of our author's conference with a Greek monk ; of Jacob's well ; the vast difference between the antient and present state of the country accounted for ; of the food most natural to the people. Mr. Maundrel arrives at Jerusalem.

HAVING coasted by the side of the bay of Acra for half an hour, they turned off to the southward, and passed a river they supposed to be of Belus, from the sands of which it is said glass was first made ; they being excellent for that manufacture. That night they took up their lodging at a Kane called Legune ; here they were well accommodated, and had a fine view of the fertile but uncultivated plains of Esdraelon, which only serves the Arabs for pasturage. Here they found their tents

extremely moist from the dew which had fallen heavily in the night; and thus were they clearly instructed in what the royal Psalmist meant by the dew of Hermon; for mount Hermon and mount Tabor were at some distance from this encampment, and Nazareth was just in sight.

THEIR situation was not extremely agreeable, as on each side of them were pitched the tents of two tribes of Arabs, who were enemies to each other. To the Emir of one of them they paid two Caphars in the morning, and he received them very civilly at the door of his tent, only he took a liking to some of their upper garments, which they were obliged to part with, without murmuring; but the loss was not very great, as the heat of the climate began to render them burthenfome.

THE next day they arrived at Samaria, where the ten tribes chiefly resided, when they revolted from the house of David. The name of it was changed from Samaria into Sebasta, by Herod the Great, in honour of Augustus Cæsar; it stands upon an oval mount, over-looking a fruitful valley, with a circle of hills at a distance,

and little of its antient splendour remains. On the north side there is a large square piazza, furrounded by pillars, supposed to have been part of a church erected by St. Helen, in honour of St. John Baptist, who was here imprisoned and beheaded. The Turks have built a little mosque over the dungeon, in which the blood of that saint was shed; and they shew it to Franks for a trifling piece of money.

AN hour and a half from Sebasta lies Naplosa, the antient name of which, according to the New Testament, was Sychem, or Sychar; it stands in a narrow valley, having mount Gerizim on the south, and Abel on the north.

FROM Gerizim God commanded the blessings to be pronounced upon the people of Israel; the curses were uttered from mount Abel. On the former of these the Samaritans have a small place of worship; but of what nature their service is, Mr. Maundrel confesses himself ignorant; it is indeed his opinion, that the Jews belie them, in saying, they adore a calf. He paid a visit to the chief priest of the Samaritans at Napelosa, and with him he had a

good deal of conversation. One question which he asked him, among many others, related to the nature of the mandrake, which Leah gave to Rachael for the purchase of her husband's embraces. The Samaritan answered, that it was an unwholesome disagreeable fruit, as large as an apple, having a broad leaf, and being ripe in harvest. Our traveller met with several of these plants in his journey to Jerusalem.

THIS priest was a curious; he had some good books in his possession, among which was the first volume of the English Polyglott, and a copy of the Samaritan Pentateuch, which he would be in no ways persuaded to dispose of. This town is well peopled, but meanly built, consisting of two streets, lying parallel to each other, under mount Gerizim, and it is the seat of a Turkish basha; here they paid a caphar, and set forward for Jacob's Well, mentioned in the 4th chapter of St. John.

OVER it there stood a large church, erected by St. Helen; of which, time and the Turks have left nothing standing but some parts of the foundation. There is

an old stony vault over the well, upon the mouth of which is a broad flat stone; it was at this time full of water, which refutes what some superstitious persons assert, viz. That it is dry all the year round, except on the anniversary of that day on which our Saviour here conversed with a woman of Samaria, and then it overflows.

HERE ends the narrow valley of Sichen, which now opens into a wide field, with a good stream of fresh water. This night they quartered at Kane Leban; and the next day pursued their journey, not without some fatigue, over a rocky mountainous way, from which they descended into a narrow valley, lying between two stony hills. Here it is said that Jacob had his vision. Hence they passed through some plantations of olives, and in two hours and a half through a craggy fatiguing road, arrived at a village called Beer.

HERE St. Helen erected a church upon the spot where the Mother of Christ is said to have sat down pensive, for the loss of her Son, whom on her return to Jerusalem, she found sitting in the temple amongst the doctors, "both hearing them

“and asking them questions.” All the way from Kane Leban to Beer, there is nothing but a rueful prospect of rocks, precipices, and mountains; so that pilgrims are wonderfully deceived in finding the country so different from what they had expected, and nothing but bare barren hills, in a tract which, according to Joab, once contained 130,000 fighting men, besides women and children. See II. Sam. v. 24.

YET these rocks and hills certainly were once covered with earth, and made to contribute to the sustenance of the inhabitants, no less than if it had been a plain country; nay, perhaps much more so, forasmuch as such a mountainous and uneven surface affords a larger space of ground for cultivation, than it would, were it all reduced to a perfect level.

FOR the husbanding of these mountains, their manner was to gather up the stones, and place them in several lines, along the sides of the hills, in form of a wall; by such borders, they supported the mould from tumbling, or being washed down, and formed many beds of excellent soil, ri-

ling gradually one above another from the bottom to the top. The plain country was well adapted for corn and pasture land, and the hills, though improper for the sustenance of cattle, being disposed into such beds as we have already described, served well for the bearing of corn, melons, gourds, cucumbers, and all kinds of garden-stuff; in which consist the principal food of these countries for several months in the year.

THE most rocky part of all, which could not be adjusted in that manner for the production of corn, might yet serve for the plantation of vines and olive trees: and that great plain adjoining to the Dead Sea, which by reason of its saltness, might be thought unserviceable both for cattle, corn, olives, and vines, had yet its proper usefulness for the nourishment of bees; our author being convinced from the smell, that here is great plenty of wax and honey.

THE principal food of the eastern people being milk, corn, wine, oil, or honey; this country, as abounding with all these things, might certainly be able to maintain a vast number of inhabitants, and much

more so, when it is remembered that the constitution of their bodies, and the nature of the climate, inclines them to be more abstemious than in colder regions.

FROM Beer Mr. Maundrel and his company proceeded through a wild stony country, varied with many ruined villages; and in little more than two hours had a prospect of Jerusalem from the top of a hill, with the mountains of Gilead on the left hand, and the plain of Jericho, with Rama, anciently called the Gibeah of Saul, on the right. In an hour more, they came up with the walls of the holy city, and entered it by the Bethel gate, having been detained about half an hour for leave, from the governor, without which no Frank is admitted into the city; for unless they come with some public minister, they are obliged to dismount, and leave their horses and arms at the gate; a ceremony from which our travellers were excused, on account of their being in the French consul's train. At this gentleman's house they lay every night during their continuance in Jerusalem, and boarded with the guardian and friars of the Latin convent, who, to

do them justice, were extremely hospitable, and kept them to supper the first night of their arrival here, it being Maundy-Thurs-day.



C H A P. V.

Of the church of the Holy Sepulchre; and the manner in which they commemorate the Passion therein.

THE following day being Good-Friday, and the 26th of March, N. S. they accompanied the consul to the church of the Holy Sepulchre; the doors of which, they found guarded by several janizaries, who obliged the lay Christians to pay fourteen dollars a man; and the ecclesiastics seven. This caphar once laid down, you are at liberty to go in and out of the church, at common hours, during the whole festival; but it must be paid again, if you would chuse to enter at extraordinary times.

THE doors are locked up on the even-

ing of Good-Friday, and opened no more until Easter-day, the pilgrims being all first admitted. Our travellers spent all this time here, and had an opportunity of surveying every holy place with great freedom, and viewing all the Latin ceremonies. This church is founded upon mount Calvary, which is an eminence upon the greater mount, Moriah; it was not first inclosed within the city walls, being reckoned infamous, as appropriated to the execution of malefactors. But ever since that the Saviour of Mankind here suffered for the sins of his creatures, it has been extremely revered; and so much resorted to, that it now stands in the midst of the city, while to make room for it mount Sion is shut out of the walls.

IN order to the fitting this hill for the foundation of a church, those who designed it were obliged to reduce it to a plain area; which they did by cutting down several parts of the rock, and elevating others. But in this work care was taken, that none of those parts of the hill, which were reckoned to be more immediately concerned in our Lord's passion, should be

altered or diminished. Thus that very part of Calvary, where it is said Christ was fastened to his cross, is left entire, being about ten or twelve yards square, and standing at this day so high above the common floor of the church, that you have twenty-one steps or stairs to go up to it.

THE holy sepulchre itself, which was first a cave hewn into the rock under-ground, having had the rock cut away from it all round, is now as it were a grotto above-ground. The church is scarcely less than one hundred paces long, and not more than sixty wide: yet it is so contrived, that it is supposed to contain under its roof twelve or thirteen sanctuaries, or places reputed to have some particular actions done in them relating to the death and resurrection of Christ. Such as, first, the place where he was derided by the soldiers.

SECONDLY, where the soldiers divided his garments.

THIRDLY, where he was shut up whilst things were made ready for his crucifixion.

FOURTHLY, where he was nailed to the cross.

FIFTHLY, where the cross was erected.

SIXTHLY, where the foldier stood, that pierced his fide.

SEVENTHLY, where his body was anointed in order to his burial.

EIGHTHLY, where his body was deposited in the sepulchre.

NINTHLY, where the angels appeared to the women after his refurrection.

TENTHLY, where Chrift himfelf appeared to Mary Magdalen, &c.

THE places where thefe and many other things relating to our bleffed Lord are faid to have been done, are all fupposed to be contained within the narrow précincts of this church; and are all diftinguifhed and adorned with fo many feveral altars.

IN the galleries round the church, and alfo in little buildings annexed to it, on the outside, are certain apartments for the reception of friars and pilgrims; and in thefe places, almoft every Chriftian nation antiently maintained a fmall fociety of monks; each fociety having its proper quarter affigned to it, by the appointment of the Turks; but they have all, except four, forfaken the place, not being able to fustain

the severe extortions which their Turkish landlords impose upon them. The Latins, Greeks, Armenians, and Cophtites, keep their footing still. Of those the Caphtites have now only one poor representative of their nation left; and the Armenians are run so much in debt, that it is supposed they are hastening apace to follow the examples of their brethren.

BESIDES their several apartments, each fraternity has its particular altars and sanctuary, where the members of it have a right to perform their own peculiar divine service, and to exclude other nations. But the great prize contended for by the several sects is, the command and appropriation of the holy sepulchre; a privilege contested with so much animosity, especially between the Greeks and Latins, that in disputing which party should go into it, to celebrate mass, they sometimes proceed to blows, even at the very door of it; and the father-guardian shewed our author a great scar upon his arm, which he told him was the mark of a wound given him by a sturdy Greek priest, in one of these unchristian skirmishes.

For putting an end to these infamous quarrels, the French king addressed a letter to the grand vizir, about twelve years since, requesting him to order the holy sepulchre to be put into the hands of the Latins, according to the tenor of the capitulation made in the year 1673; yet this affair was not accomplished till the year 1690. They alone have now the privilege to say mass in it; and though it be permitted to Christians of all nations to go into it for their private devotions, yet none are allowed to solemnize any public office of religion there but the Latins.

THE daily employment of the recluses who reside here, is to trim the lamps, and to make devotional visits and processions to the several sanctuaries in the church. Thus they spend their time, many of them for four or six years together. Nay, so far are some transported by the pleasing contemplations they here entertain themselves with, that they will never come out to their dying day, burying themselves (as it were) alive in our Lord's grave.

THE Latins, of whom there are always about ten or twelve residing at the church,

with a president over them, make every day a solemn procession with tapers, crucifixes, &c. to the several sanctuaries, singing at every one of them a Latin hymn, the subject of which relates to each place. As they are much more polite, and also more exact in their functions than any of the rest, let it suffice, if we confine our observations to their ceremonies, particularly on Good-Friday, called by them, *Nox tenebrosa*.

AT the setting in of the evening, all the friars and pilgrims assembled together in the chapel of the Apparition, a small oratory on the north side of the holy grave, in order to go in procession round the church; but before they set out, one of the friars preached a sermon in Italian in the chapel. He began his discourse thus: *In questa notte tenebrosa*, &c. at which words all the candles were instantly put out, to yield a more lively image of the occasion; and so they were held by the preacher, for near half an hour, very much in the dark.

SERMON being ended, every person present had a large lighted taper put into his hand, as if it were to make amends for the

former darkness; and the crucifixes, and other utensils, were disposed in order for beginning the procession. Amongst the other crucifixes, there was one of a very large size, which bore upon it the image of our Lord, as big as the life. The image was fastened thereto with great nails; it was crowned with thorns, besmeared with blood, &c. and was, upon the whole, so excellent a piece of workmanship, that to view it without emotion was impossible. This was carried at the head of the procession, and the company followed after it to all the sanctuaries in the church, singing a proper hymn at each.

THE first place they visited, was the Pillar of Flagellation, a large piece of which is kept in a cell, just at the door of the chapel of the Apparition. There having sung a hymn, another friar entertained the company with a sermon in Spanish, touching the scourging of our Lord.

FROM hence they proceeded to the prison of Christ, where they also sung a hymn; and a third friar preached in French.

FROM the prison they went to the altar

of the division of Christ's garments; where they only sung a hymn.

HAVING done here, they advanced to the chapel of the Derision; at which, after their hymn, they had a fourth sermon in French.

FROM this place they went up to Calvary, leaving their shoes at the bottom of the stairs. Here are two altars to be visited; one where our Lord is supposed to have been nailed to the cross; another where the cross was erected. At the former of these, they laid down the great crucifix upon the floor, and performed some ceremonies resembling the process of the crucifixion; after which, and a hymn, one of the friars preached another sermon in Spanish, upon the crucifixion.

THEY next removed to the adjoining altar, where the cross is supposed to have been erected. Here is a hole in the rock, said to be the same in which the foot of the cross stood. Here they set up the crucified image, then sung their hymn, and afterwards, the father-guardian, sitting in a chair before it, preached a sermon upon the passion, in Italian. At about one yard

and a half distance from the hole, in which the foot of the cross was fixed, is seen that memorable cleft in the rock, said to have been made by the earthquake which happened at the suffering of the God of Nature, when the rocks rent, and the very graves were opened, Mat. xxvii. 51. This cleft now appears to be about a span wide at its upper part, and at the depth of two spans it closes: but it opens again lower down, and runs to an unknown depth in the earth. There is only a tradition to prove, that this rent was made by the earthquake that happened at our Lord's passion; but that it is a natural breach, and not counterfeited by any art, the sense and reason of any one that sees it may convince him, for the sides of it fit like two tallies.

THE ceremony of the passion being over, and the guardian's sermon ended, two friars, the one personating Joseph of Arimathea, the other Nicodemus, approached the cross, and with a solemn air of concern, drew out the nails, and took down the feigned body from the cross. It was so well contrived, that its limbs were soft and fle-

xible, as if they had been real flesh: and nothing could be more surprising than to see the two pretended mourners bend down the arms, which were before extended, and dispose them upon the trunk in such a manner as is usual in corpses.

THE body was now received in a fair large winding-sheet, and carried down from Calvary, the whole company attending as before, to the stone of unction. This is taken for the very place where the precious body of our Lord was anointed and prepared for the burial. John xix. 39. Here they laid it down, and casting over it several sweet powders and spices, wrapt it up in the winding-sheet: whilst this was doing, they sung a proper hymn; and afterwards one of the friars preached a funeral sermon in Arabic. These obsequies being finished, they laid the supposed corpse in the sepulchre, shutting up the door till Easter morning. Now after so many sermons, and so long, not to say tedious a ceremony, it may well be imagined, that the weariness of the congregation, as well as the hour of night, made it needful to go to rest.

THE next morning many of the pilgrims

had their arms marked with the usual ensigns of Jerufalem. The artists who undertake the operation, do it in this manner: They have stamps in wood, of any figure that you desire, which they first print off upon the arm with powder of charcoal; then taking two very fine needles tied close together, and dipping them often like a pen, in a certain ink, said to be compounded of gunpowder and ox-gall, they make with them small punctures all along the lines of the figure which they would have printed, and then washing the part in wine, conclude the work. These punctures they make with great quickness and dexterity; and with scarcely any smart, seldom piercing so deep as to draw blood.

IN the afternoon of this day, the congregation was assembled in the area, before the holy grave, where the friars spent some hours in singing over the Lamentations of Jeremiah; which function, with the usual procession to the holy places, was all the ceremony of this day.



C H A P. VI.

Their manner of celebrating Easter; a view of some of the most remarkable places about Ferusalem; a curious account of the Dead Sea; of some sacred relicks in and about Bethlehem; of certain air fatal to the Turks; of the wilderiness and cave of St. John the Baptist.

EASTER Sunday in the morning, the sepulchre was again set open very early; the clouds of the former morning were cleared up; and the friars put on a face of joy and serenity, as if it had been the real time of our Lord's resurrection. Nor doubtless was this joy feigned, whatever their mourning might be, this being the day in which their lenten discipline expired, and they were allowed once more to make a good meal.

THE mass was celebrated this morning just before the holy sepulchre, being the most eminent place in the church. Here

a throne was erected for the father-guardian, who was dressed like a bishop; and in the sight of the Turks he gave the host to all that were disposed to receive it, not refusing children of seven or eight years old.

THIS office being ended, they left the sepulchre, and every man went about his business.

AFTER dinner, our company paid a visit to the most remarkable places about the city; going first to a large grotto, where there is a college of Dervises, and the place is held in great veneration by Turks, Jews, and Christians, as having been formerly the residence of the prophet Jeremiah, who here wrote his Lamentations, and whose bed they shew you on the shelve of a rock, about eight feet from the ground.

FROM hence they went to the sepulchres of kings, which were certainly receptacles for the dead formed at vast expence, and with infinite labour; but why called the sepulchres of kings, is a question hard to be resolved; no kings either of Israel, or Judah, being mentioned in scripture as interred here, unless that this was the burial-place of Hezekiah; and that these were

the sepulchres of the sons of David, mentioned in II. Chronicles.

You approach then at the east side, thro' an entrance cut out of the natural rock, which admits you into an open court of about forty paces square, cut down into the rock, with which it is encompassed instead of walls. On the south side of the court is a portico, nine paces long, and four broad, hewn likewise out of the natural rock; this has a kind of architrave running along it; in front adorned with sculpture of fruits and flowers, still discernable, though defaced through age. At the end of the portico on the left hand, you descend to the passage into the sepulchres.

THE door is now so obstructed with stones and rubbish, that it is something difficult to creep through it; but within there is a room about seven or eight yards square, cut out of the natural rock; its sides and cieling are so exactly square, and its angles so just, that no architect with levels and plumets could build a room more regular; and the whole is so firm and entire, that it may be called a chamber hewn out of a block of marble.

FROM this room you pass into six more; one within another, all of the same fabric with the first. Of these the two innermost are deeper than the rest, having a second descent of about six or seven steps in them. In every one of these rooms, except the first, were coffins of stone, placed in niches, in the sides of the chambers. They had been at first covered with handsome lids, and carved with foliage; but most of them have been broken in pieces by sacrilegious hands. The sides and ceiling of the room were always dropping with the moist damps condensing upon them; to receive the water thus distilled, there was in each room a channel which served to drain it off.

THERE is only one door remaining to any of those subterranean passages; it is formed like wainscot, and cut out of one entire stone; the hinges of it are of the same matter.

IN returning from these sepulchres to the city, there is a filthy dungeon pointed out, in which it is said the prophet Jeremiah was kept prisoner by Zedekiah. See Jer. xxxviii.

THE following day the pilgrims, to the number of two thousand, were convoyed to Jordan by the moselem or governor of the city, and several bands of soldiers. For this protection every layman pays twelve franks, and every ecclesiastic six: without it, the insolence of the Arabs would render it a dangerous journey.

CROSSING the valley of Jehosaphat and part of mount Olivet, they arrived in half an hour at Bethany, the first house in which village is supposed to have belonged to Lazarus; and near it is shewn the sepulchre, wherein he is said to have been raised from the dead. You descend to it by twenty-five steps, and arrive first in a small square room, through which you pass into one something less; and here the body is said to have lain. You pay a small caphar for being admitted into it; and the Turks, who use it for an oratory, hold the place in great veneration.

THE apostles' fountain is at the bottom of a steep hill, and takes its name from being the place where the apostles used to refresh themselves in their travels between Jerusalem and Jericho. Nor is this any

way improbable; as it stands by the road side, and bubbles out invitation to the thirsty passenger.

THE mountain, in the desert, whereon our Saviour is said to have been tempted, lies through an intricate road, variegated with hills and dales, and though at present extremely barren, wears the aspect of a place that had formerly been cultivated. The whole prospect is most dismal, presenting nothing but rocky mountains and frightful chasms, that appear to have been the effect of some horrid convulsion of nature.

IN a deep valley to the left, there are some ruined cottages, which were formerly the habitation of devout hermits, who certainly could never have fixed upon a spot more rueful and melancholy than this. From the top of the mount there is a beautiful prospect of the mountains of Arabia, the Dead Sea, and the plains of Jericho. On the top of Quarantania, which is the name of the hill where our Saviour and the devil conferred, there is a small chapel; the mountain is very high and of dangerous ascent, though the latter our tra-

vellers were not permitted to experience, being prevented by some Arabs, who demanded two hundred dollars for permitting them to pass up; but they neither chose the expence, nor yet to dispute with these desperadoes, who were armed with musquets.

FROM hence, turning into the plain of Jericho, they arrived, after a mile's riding, at the fountains of Elisha, which that prophet purged of its brackishness, at the request of its neighbouring inhabitants. These waters falling into a large basin, thence diffuse themselves over the neighbouring fields, which they endue with great fertility. Just by the fountain there grows an umbrageous tree, under the shade of which our travellers dined, together with thirty or forty friars, who had accompanied them in this journey.

FROM hence, at the distance of one third of an hour, lies the village of Jericho, which is at present a wretched habitation of Arabs.

THE next day, being March the 30th, they proceeded towards Jordan, through a plain that produced nothing but sam-

phire and other marine plants. Here, in many places where there had been water, which is now dried up, there remaineth strong incrustations of salt, with which mineral the soil seemed to be every where impregnated.

THERE are the ruins of an old church, and of a convent dedicated to Saint John Baptist, lying about a furlong from the river, and near the place where that holy precursor baptised the Son of God.

ON the banks of this river they were intimidated by the appearance of some hostile Arabs, who fired upon them from the opposite shore; but were at too great a distance to do any mischief. The intimidation wherewith this savage parade filled the friars, who were the most wretched of the whole company, is very surprizing. The desperadoes soon after choosung to retire, many of the pilgrims stripped and washed themselves, but dared not to venture to swim across the stream; first on account of its rapidity, and next for fear of the Arabs.

THE pilgrims having finished their devotion, or satisfied their curiosity, were

ranged in the middle of the plain, that the governor, being thereby the better able to reckon them, might lose none of his capphars. Some of them here expressing a desire of taking a view of the Dead Sea, he not only readily granted their request, but also sent a guard to protect them.

WITHIN half an hour of this sea, there are several pits like lime-kilns; and it was here perhaps, where the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown, as may be found in Gen. xiv. In a coppice, not far from the sea, the guide, who was an Arab, pointed out to them a fountain, the waters of which were brackish, though he asserted them to be fresh. To the east and west the Dead Sea is bounded by mountains of a stupendous height; on the northward lies the Plain of Jericho; to the south it stretches beyond ken. The length of it is said to be twenty-four leagues, and the breadth six or seven. The hills bordering upon the Dead Sea, which may rather be called a Lake, abound with a sulphureous kind of stone, that loses of its weight, but not of its bulk in the fire, where it yields an intolerable stench; it polishes as

well as black marble, and there are several pieces of it kept in the convent of St. John the Baptist, about two feet square, carved in basso relievo.

OUR author, from his own knowledge, assures us, that the assertion of birds dropping down dead in flying over the stream, is intirely false; and by several oyfter, and other shells which he found upon the side of the shore, he has reason to think that it nourishes some fish. There is a bitumen gathered off the surface of these waters near the mountains, which cannot be easily distinguished from pitch. The waters are salt, limpid, extremely bitter and nauseous, being of such strength, that they bear up a body with surprizing force.

MR. Maundrel searched, in vain, for the remains of those cities, which were hereabouts destroyed by fire from heaven; tho' at some times when the waters are low, a few relicks of them may be plainly discerned, as attested by the father guardian and procurator of Jerusalem. Here they could not find any thing resembling a tree; from whence it may be justly inferred, that

the story of the apples of Sodom is entirely a fiction.

THERE is a promontory to the westward, whereon the metamorphosed wife of Lot is said to be still evident; but our author neither credits the report, nor would his time permit him to examine into the truth of it.

THEY passed by an old Greek church, in their return from the Dead Sea, great part of which was still standing, and exhibited divers pieces of painting, particularly one representing the last Supper, placed over the altar. From the scent hereabouts, it is very probable, that honey and wax are plenty; and the bees labour every where round with as much assiduity as if they fed upon the delightful vegetables of Sicily.

IN this place there grows a thorn bush, with a small leaf, and a fruit resembling an unripe walnut; it is called Zachone; the Arabs pound it in a mortar, and then throwing it in scalding water, skim off an oil, which is of vast power taken inwardly against bruises; nor does the balm of Gilead cure green wounds better.

THE next morning, at half an hour after two, our company decamped, and pursued their march to the walls of Jerusalem, near which, when they approached, they turned off for Bethlehem, passing through the vale of Jehosaphat. There are many remarkable things in the road, which is of two hours length, as,

FIRST, the house of the venerable priest Simeon, who taking our blessed Saviour in his arms in the temple, sung, *Nunc Dimittis*.

SECONDLY, the famous turpentine tree, under which the holy Virgin is said to have sat, when she travelled towards Jerusalem, with the child Jesus in her arms, being about to present him to the temple.

THIRDLY, here is a convent dedicated to Elias: it is in the hands of the Greek monks, who shew a hard stone, which they say served him for a bed. On it there is a sort of impression of a human body.

FOURTHLY, here is Rachel's tomb, appearing to be a piece of modern structure; and near it are picked up little round stones, resembling pease, which it is said they were originally, but cursed, because

the peasant to whom they belonged denied to relieve the holy Virgin when in necessity.

AT Bethlehem is still to be seen the manger in which our Saviour was laid, and the place where he was born.

SECONDLY, the chapel of Saint Joseph, husband to the virgin Mary; also the chapels of the Innocents; of Saint Paul; of Eusebius; and of St. Jerom. An hour and a quarter to the south of Bethlehem, lie those beautiful gardens, and celebrated pools, which are thought to have been the contrivance of king Solomon; and which he enumerated amongst his other pieces of magnificence, as may be seen in the book of Ecclesiastes.

IN returning from these remains of the wise man's grandeur, to Bethlehem, they passed by an old aqueduct, which was certainly the work of that prince; and notwithstanding its prodigious strength, the Turks have made a shift to destroy it almost entirely. In this place are to be seen the chapel of the holy manger, and a grotto dug out of a chalky rock, in which the holy Virgin and her Child are said to have

secreted themselves from the fury of Herod, for some time before their departure into Egypt. The women hereabouts take the earth of this grotto medicinally, for increase of their milk, imagining that the whiteness of it proceeds from some drops which fell from the breast of the Virgin, while she was suckling the Infant, and not from any natural cause.

WHEN we consider how strongly prejudice acts upon weak minds, we shall not be surprized, if told, that this prescription often carries with it efficacy.

FRIDAY, April the 2d, our travellers took their leaves of Bethlehem, and of the reverend guardian, to whom they each presented two chequins for his civility, intending to return to Jerusalem, after visiting the wilderness, and the convent of Saint John Baptist. In this stage they first crossed part of the famous valley, in which the angel in one night is said to have destroyed best part of the army of Sennacherib. In an hour more they arrived at a village in which it is said no Turk can survive above two years; and by virtue of this report, the Christians make a shift to

keep the place intirely to themselves; but whether the report be true or false, no Turk chooses to try the experiment.

FARTHER on is a fountain, in which they assert, though falsly, that Philip baptized the eunuch; for the passage being steep, broken and rocky, it is difficult even for a single horseman to pass, much more for a chariot. Yet we are not to form a judgment of what the road was, from its present appearance, for it is certain, that there was another not far from the fountain, which was both spacious and convenient; but almost the traces of it are destroyed, through the negligence of the infidels.

A LITTLE beyond this fountain, lies a village called Saint Philip, where ascending a steep hill, you arrive at the wilderness of Saint John, which, though rocky and mountainous, is well cultivated, and produces plenty of corn, grapes, and olives. After an hour's travelling in this wilderness, they arrived at the cave and fountain in which it is said Saint John the Baptist exercised those austerities related of him in Mat. iii. 4.

NEAR the cave are some old locust trees, the fruit of which the pilgrims gather with great devotion, being persuaded by the friars, that the Baptist subsisted while in the wilderness upon the very same fort.

A LEAGUE to the eastward lies the convent of Saint John, towards which they directed their course, passing through the valley of Eliah, where David slew the champion of the Philistines; and having a distant prospect of the burying-place of the Maccabees. Near the convent of Saint John, there formerly stood another convent, which was sacred to Saint Elizabeth, having been once her habitation. It now lies in a heap of ruins, and has nothing in it remarkable, but a grotto, wherein Mary saluted Elizabeth with the divine Magnificat. The convent of Saint John, which is now inhabited, stands at about three furlongs distant from the house of Elizabeth; and is supposed to be built at the place Saint John was born.

IF you chance to ask, how it came to pass that Elizabeth lived in one house, when she was big with the Baptist, and in another when she brought him forth?

The answer you are like to receive, is, that the former was her country, the other her city-habitation.

THE convent of Saint John has been rebuilt from the ground within these four years. It is a large uniform square; but that which is most eminently beautiful in it, is its church, which consists of three isles, with a handsome cupola in the middle, and under it a fine marble pavement. At the upper end of the north isle, you ascend by seven marble steps to a splendid altar, erected over the place where they say the Baptist was born. Artificers are still employed in embellishing this convent; and yet it has been so expensive a work already, that the friars themselves give out, there is not a stone laid in it, but what has cost them a dollar.

IN the way between Saint John's and Jerusalem, there is a neat convent dedicated to the Holy Cross; it is delightfully situated upon the same spot where grew the tree which furnished the means of our Saviour's crucifixion. The hole wherein the stump of this accursed tree once stood,

is shewn under a high altar; and greatly revered by pilgrims.

THE evening of this day our travellers returned to Jerufalem, having been five days absent, and were invited to the convent to have their feet washed amongst all the other pilgrims. This ceremony was performed by the father guardian himself, with great solemnity; after which, each of the friars kissed their feet, in a very respectful manner; a ceremony not unuseful, if we consider it as meant either to manifest humility, or stir up the spirit of charity.





C H A P. VII.

Of the ceremony of the Holy Fire; and a description of many remarkable places about Jerusalem; also of Gethsemane.

APRIL the third, our travellers were present at the office of the Holy Fire. This is a ceremony kept up by the Greeks and Armenians, upon a persuasion, that every Easter-eve a miraculous flame descends from heaven, into the holy sepulchre, where it kindles all the lamps and candles, as the sacrifice was burnt through the prayers of Elijah. 1 Kings xviii.

THE church of the holy sepulchre was crouded with a numerous and distracted mob, making a hideous noise, better becoming Bacchanals than Christians, and crying out, Huia; which signifies, this is he, alluding to the coming of Christ. They then began to act the most antic tricks, and to throw themselves into a thousand ridiculous postures. Sometimes they dragged one another along the floor, all round the

sepulchre. In this tumultuous frantic humour, they continued from twelve till four o' clock; the reason of which delay was, because of a suit then in debate, before the Cadi, betwixt the Greeks and Armenians; the former endeavouring to exclude the latter from having any share in this ceremony; nor did their dispute cost them less than five thousand dollars.

THE Cadi at last ordered, that they should enter the holy sepulchre together, as had been usual at former times. Wherefore, at four o' clock the Greeks began the procession, and were followed by the Armenians, both parties being magnificently habited, and bearing standards, streamers, crucifixes, &c. in which order they compassed the holy sepulchre thrice. Towards the end of this procession, a pigeon came fluttering into the cupola, over the sepulchre; at sight of which there was a great shout. This bird was said by the Latins to be purposely let fly by the Greeks, to deceive the people into an opinion, that it was the Holy Ghost.

THE procession being over, the suffragan of the Greek Patriarch, he being him-

self at Constantinople, and the principal Armenian bishop, approached the door of the sepulchre, and breaking the string which was fastened and sealed, entered in, shutting the door after them, all the candles and lamps within having been before extinguished in the presence of the Turks. They had not been above a minute in the holy sepulchre, when the glimmering of the holy fire was seen through some chinks of the door; and out came the two dignified priests, with blazing torches in their hands, which they held up at the door of the sepulchre, while the people thronged about with inexpressible ardour, every one striving to obtain a part of the first and purest flame: the Turks in the mean time with huge clubs laid them on without mercy, but to no purpose; they were not to be kept back, the excess of their transport made them insensible of pain. Those that got the fire, applied it immediately to their beards, faces, and bosoms, pretending that it would not burn like an earthly flame; yet it was plain, that few of them could endure the experiment. As all pressed to light their tapers, you may

be sure it was not long before the church was well illuminated; and thus the ceremony ended.

It must be owned, that the priests within the sepulchre performed their part with great dexterity; but the behaviour of the rabble without very much discredited the performance.

THE Latins take a great deal of pains to expose this ceremony as a shameful imposture, and a scandal to the Christian religion, perhaps out of envy that others should be master of so gainful a business. But the Greeks and Armenians pin their faith upon it, and make their pilgrimage chiefly upon this motive; and it is the deplorable unhappiness of their priests, that having acted the cheat so long, they are forced now to stand to it, for fear of endangering the faith of their people.

GOING out of the church, they saw a number of people melting their wax tapers upon pieces of linen, which were intended for shrouds; and these poor creatures imagine, that such sort of an embalmment will protect them when dead, from the flames of hell.

THE 4th of April, being Easter Sunday, O. S. our company observed it with due reverence, and went not abroad. On the 5th, they continued their curious investigations, and paid a visit to the prison, whence the angel delivered Saint Peter; the place being still appropriated to the imprisonment of criminals. About the space of a furlong from thence, they came to an old church, built by Helena, in the place where stood the house of Zebedee. This is in the hands of the Greeks, who tell you that Zebedee being a fisherman, was wont to bring fish from Joppa hither, and to vend it at this place.

NOT far from hence, they came to the place where they say stood antiently the iron gate, which opened to Saint Peter of its own accord. A few steps farther is a small church, built over the house of Mark, to which the apostle directed his course after his miraculous goal delivery. The Syrians, who have this place in their custody, pretend to show you the very window at which Rhoda looked out, while Peter knocked at the door. In the church they show a Syriac manuscript of the New Tes-

tament in folio, pretended to be 852 years old; and a little stone font used by the apostles themselves in baptizing.

ABOUT 150 paces farther, in the same street, is the house of St. Thomas, formerly a church, but now a mosque. Not many paces farther, is another street, crossing the former, which leads you on the right hand to the place where they say our Lord appeared after his resurrection to the three Maries, Mat. xxviii. 9. The friars make out three Maries, though St. Matthew mentions only two. The same street carries you, on the left hand, to the Armenian convent: the Armenians have here a very large and delightful spot of ground; their convent and gardens taking up all that part of Mount Sion which is within the walls of the city; their church is built over the place where they say St. James, the brother of John, was beheaded. Acts xii. 2.

IN a small chapel on the north side of the church, is shewn the very place of his decollation; in this church are two altars, set out with extraordinary splendour, being decked with rich mitres, embroidered copes, crosses, both silver and gold crowns, chalices, and other church-utensils, with-

out number. In the middle of the church is a pulpit made of tortoiseshell and mother of pearl, with a canopy or cupola over it, of the same fabrick. The tortoiseshell and mother of pearl are nice and judiciously intermingled. In a kind of antichapel to this church, there are laid upon one side of an altar, three large rough stones, esteemed very precious; one of them being the stone upon which Moses cast the two tables when he broke them in indignation at the idolatry of the Israelites; the other two being brought, one from the place of our Lord's baptism, the other from that of his transfiguration.

LEAVING this convent, they went a little farther to another small church, which was likewise in the hands of the Armenians; this is supposed to be founded in the place where the house of Annanias stood. Within the church, not far from the door, is shewn a hole in the wall, denoting a place where one of the officers of the high priest smote our blessed Saviour. John xviii. 22. The officer by whose impious hands that buffet was given, the friars will have to be the same Malchus whose ear

our Lord had healed in the court before. Near this chapel is an olive tree, to which, it is reported, Christ was chained for some time, by order of Annanias, to secure him from escaping.

THEY were now conducted out of Sion Gate, which is near adjoining to that called the house of Caiaphas, where is another small chapel, belonging also to the Armenians; here under the altar, they tell us, is deposited the very stone which secured the door of our Saviour's sepulchre. Matt. xxvii. 60. It was a long time kept in the church of the sepulchre, but the Armenians, not many years since, stole it thence by stratagem, and conveyed it to this place. The stone is two yards and a quarter long, and one yard broad; it is plaistered all over, except in five or six places, where it is bare, through the kisses of the pilgrims. Here is likewise shewn a cell, said to have been our Lord's prison, till the morning when he was carried from thence before Pilate, and also the place where Peter was frightened into a denial of his master. A little farther without the gate, is the church where they say Christ instituted his Last Supper. It is now a

mosque, and the inside not to be seen by Christians.

NEAR this is a well, which is said to mark out the place at which the apostles divided from each other, in order to go every man to his several charge; and close by the well are the ruins of a house in which the blessed Virgin is supposed to have breathed her last. Going eastward a little down the hill, they were shewn the place where a Jew arrested the corps of the blessed Virgin as she was carried to her interment, for which impious presumption he had the hand withered wherewith he had seized the bier. In the middle of the hill they shew you the grot in which Peter wept for his inconstancy.

THEY extended their circuit no farther at this time, but entered the city again at Sion Gate, where turning down to the right, they came to a garden lying at the foot of mount Moriah; where they were shewn several large vaults, running at least fifty yards under ground. They were built in two isles, arched at top with huge firm stone, and sustained with tall pillars, consisting each of one single stone, two

yards in diameter: this might possibly be some work made to enlarge the area of the temple, for Josephus describes something like it.

FROM these vaults they returned toward the convent. In their way they saw the beautiful gate of the temple, but they could but just view it in passing; it not being safe to stay here long, by reason of the superstition of the Turks. The ensuing morning they continued their progress round the city, going first to Bethesda's Pool, supposed to be the place wherein that damsel washed herself, when the Royal Psalmist spied her from the terraces of his palace: Though others fix this pool elsewhere. A little below it begins the valley of Hinnom, on the west side of which is the place called antiently the Potter's Field; and afterwards, the Field of Blood, from its being purchased with the pieces of silver which were the price of the blood of Christ; but at present, from that veneration which it has obtained amongst Christians, it is called Campo Sancto. It is a small plat of ground, not above thirty yards long, and about half as much

broad; one half of it is taken up by a square fabrick, twelve yards high, built for a charnel-house. The corpses are let down into it from the top; there being five holes left open for that purpose. Looking down through these holes they saw several bodies not quite decayed. The Armenians have the command of this burying-place, for which they pay the Turks the rent of one sequin per day. The soil hereabouts is of a chalky substance.

A LITTLE below the Campo Sancto, is shewn an intricate cave, or sepulchre, consisting of several rooms, one within another, in which the apostles are said to have hid themselves when they forsook their Master. The entrance of the cave discovers signs of its having been formerly painted. The valley of Jehosaphat runs along by the mouth of that of Hinnom, and is watered in winter-time by the brook Cedron; but the stream was quite dried up when our author was there.

HERE is to be seen the well of Nehemiah, mentioned 2 Macc. i. 19. A little higher, in the valley on the left hand, you come to a tree, supposed to mark out the

place where the evangelical prophet was slain afunder. About one hundred paces higher, on the same side, is the pool of Siloam; it was antiently dignified with a church, built over it, but now a tanner makes no scruple to dress his hides in it.

ABOUT a furlong farther on, is the fountain of the blessed Virgin, so called, because she was wont, as is reported, to resort hither for water. Over-against the fountain, on the other side of the valley, is a village called Siloe, in which Solomon is said to have kept his strange wives: and above this village, is a hill called the mountain of Offence, because there Solomon built the high places mentioned 1 Kings xi. 7. His wives having perverted his heart to abomination in his declining years.

ON the same side, and not far distant from Siloe, they shew another Aceldema, or Field of Blood, so called, because there it was that Judas hanged himself. A little farther, on the same side of the valley, there are shewn several Jewish monuments; amongst the rest are two noble antiquities, one called the sepulchre of Zachary, and the other, the pillar of Absa-

lom; close by the latter, is the sepulchre of Jehosaphat, from which the whole valley takes its name.

UPON the edge of the hill, on the opposite side of the valley, there runs along, in a direct line, the wall of the city; near the corner of which there is a short end of a pillar jetting out of the wall. Upon this pillar, the Turks have a tradition, that Mahomet shall sit in judgment at the last day; and that all the world shall be gathered together in the valley below, to receive their doom from his mouth.

A LITTLE farther northward, is the gate of the temple; it is at present walled up, because the Turks have a prophecy that their destruction shall enter at that gate; the completion of which prediction they endeavour thus to prevent. Below this gate, at the bottom of the valley, is a broad hard stone, discovering several impressions upon it, which you may fancy to be footsteps; these the friars tell you are prints made by our blessed Saviour's feet, when, after his apprehension he was hurried violently away to the tribunal of his blood-thirsty prosecutors.

FROM hence, keeping still in the bottom of the valley, you come in a few paces to a place, which they call the Sepulchre of the Blessed Virgin; it has a magnificent descent of forty-seven stairs; on the right hand as you go down, is the sepulchre of St. Anna the mother, and on the left, that of St. Joseph, the husband of the blessed Virgin. Going hence up the hill, toward the city, is shewn a broad stone, on which they say, St. Stephen suffered martyrdom; and not far from it a grot, into which they tell you the outrageous Jewish zealots cast his body, when they had fatiated their fury upon him. From hence they went immediately to St. Stephen's Gate, so called from its being thus near the place of the protomartyr's suffering; and then returned to their lodgings.

NEXT day they visited certain intricate grottoes, called the Sepulchres of the Prophets; and farther on, at the top of a hill, from whence our Lord is said to have ascended, there formerly stood a church, built in commemoration of that glorious event. Of this church there now remains only an octagonal cupola; beneath which is said

to be the very stone whereon the Son of God last stood. On it is the print of one of his feet; the impression of the other the Turks have removed into their great mosque on mount Moriah. They have turned this chapel of the Ascension also into a mosque. There are many other holy places about Jerusalem, which these infidels have ingrossed, under pretence of venerating them equally with the Christians; but it is much more probable, that their view is to exact money from those Franks whose devotion may lead them to visit these sacred places.

ABOUT two furlongs to the northward, is the highest part of mount Olivet; and upon that was anciently erected an high tower, in memory of that apparition of the two angels to the apostles, after our blessed Lord's ascension, from which the tower derived its name. This antient monument remained till within these two years, when it was demolished by a Turk, who had bought the field in which it stood. Nevertheless, from the natural height of the place, there is still a fair prospect of Jerusalem, the adjacent country, and of the Dead Sea.

OUR travellers descended by a road different from that by which they had gone up; and at the bottom of the hill there is a stone, upon which the blessed Virgin dropped her girdle at the time of her assumption, in order to convince Saint Thomas of the truth of that miracle, who it seems was incredulous more than once. The impression of this girdle is to be seen upon the stone.

TWENTY-ONE yards lower, between mount Olivet and the brook Cedron, lies a flat fifty-seven yards square, which is said to be Gethsemane. It is well planted with olives, which are a good commodity in Spain, as well as the stones and oil which they produce; it being supposed that they are the same trees which grew in the time of our Saviour; but this assertion is disproved by Josephus, in the 7th book of whose wars of the Jews, we are told, that Titus, during the siege of the holy city, caused all the trees within a hundred furlongs of it to be cut down, to supply his soldiers with wood, for making the assault upon the temple. At one corner of Gethsemane, is shewn a naked rock, on which Peter,

James, and John are supposed to have slept, during the agony of our Lord; and eight paces from it, is a strip of ground twelve yards long, and one broad, on which Judas walked up, when he betrayed his master. And it is remarkable, that the Turks have caused it to be separated from the rest of the garden, holding in detestation, even as much as Christians, such an infamous piece of treachery.

NEAR St. Stephen's gate stands an indifferent Turkish house, said to have been the spot whereon stood the palace of Pilate. From the terrace of this house you have a fair prospect of all the place whereon the temple stood, indeed the only good prospect that is allowed you of it; for there is no going between the borders of it, without forfeiting your life, or what is worse, your religion. A fitter place for an august building could not be found in the whole world than this area; it lies upon the top of mount Moriah, over-against mount Olivet; one may still discern marks of the great labour that it cost to cut away the hard rock, and to level such a space upon so strong a mountain.

IN the middle of the area stands at present a mosque of an octagonal figure, supposed to be built upon the same ground whereon anciently stood the Sanctum Sanctorum; it is neither eminent for its largeness, nor its structure; and yet it makes a very stately figure by the sole advantage of its situation. In this pretended house of Pilate, is shewn the room in which Christ was mocked with the ensigns of royalty, and buffeted by the soldiers. At the coming out of the house, is a descent where was antiently the Scala Sancta. On the other side of the street, which was antiently part of the palace, is the room where they say our Lord was scourged; it was once used for a stable, by the son of a certain basha of Jerusalem; but presently, upon this profanation, there ensued such a mortality amongst his horses, as forced him to resign the place; so that it was redeemed from that fordid use; but nevertheless, it is now no better than a weaver's shop.

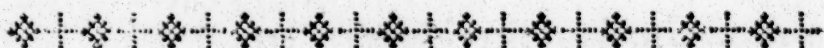
IN their return from Pilate's palace, they passed along the Dolorous Way, and were shewn, 1st. The place where Pilate brought our Lord forth to present to the

people, with this mystick saying, Behold the Man! 2d. The place whereon Christ fainted thrice under the weight of his cross. 3d. Where the blessed Virgin swooned away. 4th. Where St. Veronica presented the handkerchief. 5th. Where the soldiers compelled Simon the Cyrenian to bear the cross.

FRIDAY, April the 9th, they took a view of Bethesda, which is 120 paces long, forty broad, and eight deep; there are some old arches remaining over it, although the water is at present dried up. Near at hand, is the convent and nunnery of St. Ann; the church is large and intire, as well as the lodgings; but both are desolate and neglected. The blessed Virgin is said to have been born in a grotto under this church; and the place is shewn to devout people.

AT a small distance stands the house of the Pharisees, wherein Mary Magdalen, with her tears, washed the feet of our Saviour, and wiped them with her hair. In the afternoon of this day, our travellers visited mount Gibon; and the pool of the same name, which is 106 paces long, and

sixty-seven broad; it is lined with wall and plaister, and well stored with water. Bethlehem gate lies to the westward, at the distance of about two furlongs.



C H A P. VIII.

Conclusion of the feast of the Sepulchre. Mr. Maundrel sets out on his return home; they are stoppt by the emir of Chibly, but at length permitted to go on; of the present state of Nazareth; of mount Tabor; they arrive at mount Libanus; Damascus, and the adjacent country described; of the procession of the Hadgees.

APRIL the 10th, being the last day that the holy sepulchre was to remain open during this festival, our travellers paid it a last visit. The Turks call this the day of charity, because they permit every body to enter, without taxing them; so that the poorest sort of pilgrims have now an opportunity of indulging their devotion; though it is said, that some abandoned wretches make use of it to pol-

lute the holy place with every kind of lewdness.

FROM the 11th to the 13th, Mr. Maundrel and his company kept close within doors, to avoid the insolence of the Turks; it being the feast of Byram, which succeeds the Ramadan, or Lent; and during which space, they give themselves up to all manner of libertinism.

ON the 15th, the father-guardian delivered to each traveller a certificate of their having visited all the holy places, in return for which, and other favours, they presented the convent with fifty dollars a man; and set out with the Mossalem or Governor, who was on his return to his master, the bashaw of Tripoli. They had obtained this permission by the means of a small present; and they were induced to ask it, as being told, that the roads grew every day more and more dangerous from the broils among the Arabs increasing. However, the Mossalem turned off from them at the end of the first stage, and they saw no more of him during their journey. The country people were, at this season, every where employed in plowing the ground

to sow cotton, and they used goads of an extraordinary size, some of them being at least eight feet long, and six inches in circumference; at the larger end of it was fixed a strong small iron spade, for cleaning the plough from the earth that might incumber it; to the lesser end was affixed a prickle, wherewith they drive the oxen, which employment, as well as that of holding the plough, was managed by one and the same person.

APRIL the 17th, they arrived at a large old town, called Jeneen; it lies upon the skirts of Efdraelon, and is the chief residence of the emir of Chibly, by whose order they were obliged to stay all day, till he should receive the caphar from them in person; however, he at length permitted them to depart about midnight, after having accounted for it with one of his officers.

EARLY next morning they arrived at Nazareth, an inconsiderable village, lying in a cavity on the top of a high hill, where they were entertained by seven or eight friars, in a convent sacred to the Annunciation. These fathers lead a truly mor-

tified life, being in continual fear of the Arabs. The church of Nazareth is built in form of a cross; but part of the main pillars have been broken away by the Turks, who therein expected to have found some hidden treasure; and as this part contributed in a great measure to the support of the roof, it is a little hard to find out by what art it is at present sustained; the friars indeed immediately account for it, by having recourse to a miracle.

THE house of Joseph, wherein the Son of God lived near thirty years as man, is near at hand, and not far from the synagogue wherein he preached the sermon mentioned in Luke iv. All those places were antiently embellished by the devout Helena, mother of Constantine; but her labours now lie in ruins.

MONDAY, April the 19th, they visited mount Tabor, whereon our Saviour is said to have been transfigured; it is steep, and hard to be ascended; the top of it was antiently well fortified, and to this day there are to be seen the ruins of the walls and trenches. Here is a fertile area, deliciously planted round with trees, being open

only to the south. Here are also several cisterns of good water, and three contiguous grottoes, answering to three tabernacles, proposed to be erected by St. Peter, in the astonishment that possessed him at the glory of the transfiguration.

OUR author curiously enough observes, that almost all passages and histories related in the gospel, are represented by them that undertake to shew where every thing was done, as having been done most of them in grottoes; and that, even in cases where the condition and circumstances of the actions themselves seem to require places of another nature. Thus, if you would see the spot where St. Ann was delivered of the blessed Virgin, you are carried to a grotto. If that of the Annunciation, it is also a grotto; if the place where our blessed Virgin saluted St. Elizabeth; if that of the Baptist's, or that of our blessed Saviour's nativity; if that of the Agony, or that of St. Peter's repentance, or that where the apostles made the creed; or this of the transfiguration, all these are grottoes. And in a word, wherever you go, you find almost every thing is represented as done un-

der ground. We must certainly infer from hence, that grottoes were held in great esteem, or else they could never have been assigned, in spite of all probability, for the places in which were done so many various actions. Perhaps it was the hermits' way of living in grottoes, from the fifth or sixth century downward, that has brought them into such reputation.

FROM the top of mount Tabor, there is a distant view of the Mediterranean, and a fine prospect of most of the places in which the Son of God performed his miracles. To the eastward you discover mount Hermon, at the foot of which our Lord raised the widow's son; and Endor, where Saul conferred with the witch. Due east lies the sea of Tiberius, over which hangs a steep mountain, where the swine mentioned in the 8th chapter of Matthew ran down and perished.

A FEW points to the north, appears the mount of Beatitudes; where our Saviour delivered the sermon found in the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of Matthew.

AFTER dinner this day they visited the mountain of Precipitation, down which

our Saviour's neighbours would have cast him for his sermon preached in Luke iv. But he had a miraculous escape; there are several small holes in the rock, which the friars attest to be the marks of Christ's fingers, made while he resisted the violence of his enemies. On the 20th, they took their leaves of the guardian, presenting him with five dollars a-piece for his civility, and proceeded towards Acra, where they were handsomely entertained by the French consul, who carried them to see several caverns cut in a rocky mountain, about a mile from the sea; and these appeared upon the nicest inspection to have been intended for the residence of living people; and not as sepulchres for the dead. Who these subterranean inhabitants were, it is not easy to determine; nor yet in what age they lived. Strabo indeed describes the Troglodytæ to have inhabited some tenements of this kind.

APRIL the 24th they began to climb mount Libanus, which they found very steep and difficult. The next day, having passed the highest ridge of this mountain, where the snow lay close to the road, they

began to descend; and in two hours came to a small village, where there gushes out a plentiful stream, which tumbling into a subjacent valley, there forms a fine brook, and loses itself in the river Letane. Here, had they not been pretty resolute, the collectors of the caphars would have imposed upon them very much.

ON the 26th, having paid a small imposition at Demas, they continued their way; but night overtook them in about an hour, in the most uncomfortable situation, where was no grass for their horses; and scarcely more water than sufficed to subsist a few frogs, with whose delicate music they were all night entertained. The next day they passed the river Barrady, over a new bridge; this river pours with vast rapidity from the mountains, fertilizing Damascus, and all the neighbouring plains, which are so ravishingly delightful, so exquisitely calculated for the indulgence of pleasure, that Mahomet having viewed them from the top of a high hill, would not go forward, lest he should have given way to temptation; but went back again with this reflexion, "There is but one Pa-

radise designed for man! mine shall not be of this world."

THE city of Damascus lies due east of Sidon, distant from it three days journey; it appears to be about two miles long, swelling more at each end than in the middle; and it is said to be surrounded on every side for thirty miles with gardens well watered, planted with the choicest fruits, and adorned with fine alcoves, so that it looks as if it stood in the midst of a wood.

DESCENDING from the precipice whence they had a view of this terrestrial paradise, they were met by a Janizary, dispatched to them by the Latin convent, and by him conducted into the city by a round-about way; being thereby secured from the insults of the inhabitants, who are savage bigots.

THE garden walls about Damascus are built of great pieces of earth, fashioned like bricks, and are laid one a-top of the other; some of them being two yards long, and more than one and a half thick. They scower the channels in their gardens by means of a great bough fastened to a yoke

of oxen, and dragged along, while a heavy peasant sits upon and presses it to the bottom.

AT the east gate of the city, they were received by father Raphael, the guardian of the Latin convent, where they were accommodated with great civility. The streets of Damascus are very narrow, and the houses built of sun-burnt brick, whereby you are up to the knees in mud when there is the least rain; it is hard to divine what should induce people to build in this wretched manner, when the neighbouring mountains can furnish them with stones and other materials, for the most elegant structures? Perhaps their natural indolence. Yet their gates and doors are beautifully and variously inlaid with marble; and surely no other part of the world can shew such a strange compound of marble and mud; grandeur and meanness. Our author describes to you one of their houses, and as they are all erected much upon the same plan, from hence you may form an idea of the rest.

You generally find, says he, a large square court, beautified with marble foun-

tains, variety of fragrant trees, and compassed round with splendid apartments and Duans; the Duans being about half a foot from the ground, floored and adorned on the sides with marble, mixt with mosaic. The ceiling and pannels are, after the Turkish manner, richly painted and gilded; they have generally artificial fountains springing up before them in marble basons; and are furnished to the height of luxury with carpets and cushions; being so placed that you may always have either the shade or the sun, which you please.

THE church of St. John Baptist is now converted into a mosque, and held too sacred for Christians to enter, or almost to look into. However, Mr. Maundrel had three short views of it, looking over the gates. These are vastly large, covered with brass, inscribed from top to bottom with Arabic characters; and in several places with the figure of a chalice, supposed to be the antient ensign or arms of the Mamelukes. On the north side of the church is a spacious court, scarcely less than one hundred and fifty yards long, and upwards of eighty broad. It is paved all over, and

flanked on the south side by the church, on the other three sides by a double cloister, supported by two rows of granite pillars of the Corinthian order, which are very lofty and beautiful. In this church are the head of St. John, and some other relics, esteemed so holy, that it is death even for a lay Turk to presume to go into the room where they are kept. They were told here by a Turk of some fashion, that Christ was to descend into this mosque at the day of judgment, as Mahomet was to do in that of Jerusalem; but there is neither ground nor reason for this tradition.

FROM the church we went to the castle, which stands about two furlongs distant, towards the west: it is a good edifice in the rustic stile; in length, three hundred and forty paces, and in breadth, somewhat less. They were admitted but just within the gate, where they saw a store of antient arms and armour: the spoils of the Christians in former times. Amongst the artillery was an old Roman balista; but this was a place on which they were not permitted long to gaze. At the east end of the castle, there hangs down the wall a

short chain cut in stone, a specimen perhaps, and no more, of the ingenuity of the artificer. Leaving this place the 9th, they went to view the Bazars, which they found crowded with people, but scarcely worthy of notice.

EARLY the next morning they were present at the procession of the Hadgees, setting out on their yearly pilgrimage to Mecca. Ostan Bassa, of Tripoli, being appointed their emir, or conductor, for this year.

IN this cavalcade, there came forty-six Decees, or religious madmen, carrying each a silk streamer of red and green, or of yellow and green. After these came three troops of Segmen, an order of foldiers among the Turks; and next to them some troops of Spahis; these were followed by eight companies of Mugubrines, who are a body of foot, designed to be left in garrison, maintained by the Turks, somewhere in the desert of Arabia, and relieved every year with fresh men; with them were six pieces of small cannon. In the next place came on foot the foldiers of the castle of Damascus, fantastically armed with coats of mail, gauntlets, &c. These were fol-

lowed by two troops of Janizaries, and their aga, all mounted. Next came the Bassa's two horse-tails, preceded by his aga of the court; and then six led horses finely shaped, and pompously accoutered; over the saddle of each was girt a large silver target, gilded with gold.

AFTER these horses came the Mahmal; this is a large pavillion of black silk, borne by an huge camel, and on every side reaching to the ground; it is adorned with gold fringes, and the camel ornamented with large ropes of beads, fish shells, fox tails, &c. Under this pavilion the Alcoran is placed with great solemnity, together with a new rich carpet, which the grand signior sends every year to Mecca, for the covering of Mahomet's tomb; and the old one is brought back in return, which is esteemed of inestimable value. The beast which carries this sacred treasure, is exempted from bearing burdens for ever after.

To the Mahmal succeeded another troop, headed by the Bassa; the procession concluded with twenty loaded camels.



C H A P. IX.

*Of the Ager Damascenus ; of the house of An-
nanius ; Franks not allowed the use of hor-
ses ; Sidonia deserted ; of its sixteen cha-
pels ; a miracle ; Mr. Maundrel visits the
cedars of Libanus, the convent at Canobine,
and returns to Aleppo.*

THIS shew being ended, our travel-
lers went to the Ager Damascenus,
a long beautiful meadow, just without the
city ; on the west side it is equally inter-
sected by that branch of the river Barrady,
which supplies the city ; and is taken no-
tice of, because of a tradition current here,
that Adam was made of the earth of this
field.

ADJOINING to it is a large hospital, with-
in which is a pleasant square court, enclo-
sed on the south by a stately mosque, and
on its other sides by cloisters, and lodgings
of no contemptible structure. Returning
from hence homeward, they were shewn

by the way an elegant bagnio, and near it a coffee-house capable of entertaining four or five hundred people, shaded over-head with trees, and divided into two apartments, adapted to the reception of guests; one proper for the summer, the other for the winter. That designed for the summer, was a small island, washed by a swift stream, and well shaded from the heat. Here were a multitude of Turks reclining upon the Duans, there being nothing which they behold with so much delight as water and verdure.

IN the afternoon they went to visit the house of Annanias, mentioned in Acts ix. 17. remarkable only for having in it a Christian altar and a Turkish praying-place, not far from each other. About two furlongs nearer the city than the place whereon St. Paul was converted, is a tall timber structure; and within it an altar erected whereat you are told the Apostle rested for some time after his vision, Acts ix. 8.

BEING returned to the city, they were shewn the gate at which St. Paul was let down in a basket, Acts ix. 25. This gate is at present walled up, as being superflu-

ous. Mr. Maundrel next waited upon, and paid his compliments to, the great patriarch of this city; he was about forty years of age; the place of his residence was mean, neither was there any thing extraordinary in his person or conversation.

APRIL the 30th, they went to visit certain gardens, and spent the day about a mile out of town, in a very pleasant summer-house, over a clear stream of water. Here were plenty of fruit-trees disposed without the least order or regularity. In visiting these gardens, Franks are obliged to walk on foot, or else to ride on asses; the insolence of the Turks not allowing them to mount on horseback. To serve upon these occasions, there are hackney asses always standing ready equipped for hire; when you are mounted, the master of the ass follows the beast wherever you are disposed to go, goading him behind with a sharp-pointed stick, which makes him move with expedition.

ON the 2d of May, they set out for Sidonaiia; leaving on the right hand a hill, whereon Cain is supposed to have sacrificed his brother Abel.

SYDONAIA is remarkable for nothing but its wine; it was founded by the emperor Justinian, upon the top of the rock, thro' which, steps have been cut with great labour; and it would be otherwise inaccessible. Upon the whole, it is a mean building; but the convent is inclosed with a strong stone wall, and contains about twenty Greek monks, with double the number of nuns, who seemed to live together in a promiscuous manner, without order or separation. On this rock there are sixteen churches differently dedicated, but the most of them lie in ruins. The chapel wherein the monks of the order daily perform divine service, is remarkable for its boasting of the following miracle.

HERE was formerly said to have been an image sacred to the holy Virgin, which performed many miracles; and this being stolen by a thief, was transformed into a real carnal substance; whereat the libertine was so much affected, that he immediately carried it back to the convent, acknowledging his guilt: the monks deposited it with due reverence in a rich vase, under which is placed a silver basin, to receive a holy oil

that distils from it, wonderful in disorders of the eye.

THERE is an ancient sepulchre on the east side of the rock, the entrance of which is ornamented with six statues. Here a person who accompanied our author had a very narrow escape from being killed by a Janizary, who fired a pistol at him for having dropt a little wine on his garment.

THE next morning they visited the house of Judas, and at their departure, each man presented the convent with ten ducats, as a reward for the kindness wherewith they had been treated; and they afterwards set out for Balbec, upon the magnificent ruins of which we shall give a particular dissertation in its proper place.

ON the 6th of May, having taken a survey of the celebrated city last mentioned, they proceeded to mount Libanus, which they found covered with snow, and in labouring through it, there was much fatigue: here missing their way to Canobine, through the ignorance of their guide, they were obliged to turn off to Tripoli, where they arrived the next day.

SATURDAY May the 8th, in the after-

noon, Mr. Consul Hastings carried them to see the castle of Tripoli. It is pleasantly situated on a hill, commanding the city, but has neither arms nor ammunition in it, and serves rather for a prison than a garrison. There was here at this time shut up a poor Christian, called Sheck Eunice, a Maronite; who had formerly renounced his faith, and lived for many years in the Mahometan religion; but in his declining age he had retracted. This man was impaled by order of the Bassa, two days after our author left Tripoli.

THE punishment of impaling is thus inflicted; they take a post as thick as a man's leg, and eight or nine feet long, which they make sharp at one end, and this they force the criminal to carry to the place of execution, imitating herein the old Roman custom of compelling malefactors to bear their own crosses. Being arrived here, they thrust the stake through his fundament, and then taking him by the legs draw on his body, till the point of the stake appears at his shoulders; after this they erect and fasten it in a hole dug in the ground, and the criminal remains not only still alive,

but often drinks, smoaks, and talks as one perfectly sensible. Thus some have continued for twenty-four hours, but generally after the wretch has suffered this torture and ignominy for an hour or two, some of the by-standers is permitted to stab him; thereby putting an end to his misery.

MAY the 9th, our author made one attempt more at visiting Canobine, and the cedars of mount Libanus; and after a laborious journey of seven hours, he arrived among those celebrated trees. They flourish in the snow, near the highest part of Lebanon, and are remarkable as well for their size and age, as for the frequent allusions made to them in the holy Scriptures: there are some very old and of a prodigious bulk; others younger and smaller sized. Of the former, Mr. Maundrel only reckoned up sixteen, the latter are very numerous. One of the largest which he measured was twelve yards in circumference, and its branches were thirty-seven yards about. Near five or six yards from the ground, it was divided into five limbs, each limb being equal to a great tree.

AFTER about half an hour spent in surveying this place, the clouds began to thicken and to fly along upon the ground, which so obscured the road, that the guide was very much at a loss to find the way back again. They rambled about thus bewildered for near seven hours, and were in some fear of being forced to spend one night more at Libanus. But at last, after a long exercise of pains and patience, they hit upon the way to Canobine, where they arrived at the close of the evening, and found a kind reception answerable to the great need they had for it, after so long a fatigue.

CANOBINE is a convent of the Maronites, and the seat of the patriarch, who is at present, says our author, F. Stephanus Edenensis, a person of great learning and humanity. It is a very mean structure, but its situation is admirably adapted to retirement and devotion. It is seated on the north side of a huge chasm, on the steep of the mountain, about the midway between the top and the bottom. This chasm runs a great length, and is not only always green, but interspersed with cata-

tracts of falling water, the delightful murmurings of which add to the solemnity and solitude of the place. It stands at the mouth of a great cave, having a few small rooms fronting outward that enjoy the light of the sun; the rest are all underground. It was founded by the emperor Theodosius the Great; and though it has been several times rebuilt, yet the patriarch assured me, the church was of the primitive foundation. But whoever built it, it is a mean fabrick, and no great credit to its founder. At the side of the wall were two small bells to call the monks to their devotions; a privilege allowed no where else in Turkey; nor would it be suffered here, but that the Turks are out of hearing.

THE valley of Canobine was antiently, as it well deserves, very much resorted to for religious retirement; you see here still hermitages, cells, and monasteries without number. There is scarcely a prominence upon the side of the mountain, without some little structure upon it for the reception of monks and hermits, though few or none of them are now inhabited.

THE following day after dinner Mr. Maundrel left this place, and returned to Tripoli; after a journey of six hours thro' a narrow path cut in the chasm before mentioned.

MAY the 11th, they took their leaves of their friends at Tripoli, in order to return to Aleppo, and had some debate with their selves, whether to take the same way that they came, when outward bound, or a new way by Emiffa, Hempfe and Hamal; but being warned of some disturbances upon this latter road, they agreed to return the same way they came.

OUR author does not mention any thing remarkable that occurred upon the road back, which they passed in eight days, except that the peasants, instead of cutting down their corn, pluck it up in handfuls, so close, that they tear away roots and all, and leave behind them no traces of fertility: this they do, that they may lose none of the straw, which is the only sustenance of their cattle, hay being not known in this climate.



T H E

TRAVELS

O F

Dr. THOMAS SHAW,

Fellow of Queen's-College, OXFORD,
And F. R. S.



CHAP. I.

*Of the Algerine dominions; their extent, &c.
Oran and Arzeu described; of Shersbell,
supposed to be the antient Cæsarea, and why;
of the Sepulchre of the Christian Women.*

DR. Shaw is in great estimation for the accuracy of the accounts by him delivered to us of the countries through which he passed; and his great taste and

curiosity have recommended his work to the perusal of some of the most judicious people in these kingdoms, as well as abroad; our giving them an extract here, must be certainly acceptable.

HE begins with a general description of the kingdom of Algiers, which is one of the most considerable districts in that part of Africa called Barbary, and now under the Turkish subjection. It is bounded to the W. with Twunt, and the mountains of Trara; to the S. with the Sahara or Desert; to the E. with the river Zaine, the antient Tusca; and to the N. with the Mediterranean Sea.

ACCORDING to the best geographical accounts, it is in the broadest place 240 miles over; and Sanfon, who is extremely correct, makes it from W. to E. 900 miles in length; though by the exactest observations of our judicious author, the space of ground between Twunt and Tabarka is not more than 460 miles; the first of these places lies in 0 degrees 16 minutes W. longitude from London; and the latter upon the river Zaine, in 9 degrees 16 minutes to the E.

THE Algerine dominion beyond the Tell, or the more advanced parts of the mountains of Atlas, is more uncertain and precarious; for which reason Dr. Shaw fixes its limits on that quarter, upon the northern skirts of the Sahara. Some of the villages of Zab pay an annual tax to the Turks by way of fealty; others again are independent; and the inhabitants of Bildulgerid are not to be brought under contribution, keeping always either aloof or upon their guard, when the Turkish armies take the field.

THE mountains of Atlas are rarely if ever found to be equal to some of the larger mountains of Great Britain; and such of them as fell in our author's way to examine, come not, according to his opinion, in competition either with the Alps or Apenines. Let us conceive, says he, a number of hills of 4, 5, or 600 yards perpendicularly high, with an easy ascent, and successive groves of fruit and forest trees, rising as it were in ranges one above the other; and then shall we be furnished with an idea of those hills which at present employ our attention. More effectually to

realize the scene, let us here and there add the prospect of a rocky precipice, a broken eminence, and a village of the Kabyles, and we shall have no need to heighten the picture with the nocturnal flames, melodious sounds, or imaginary beings attributed to these places by the antients.

TWUNT, the frontier village of the Algerines to the sea, is defended by a small fort, and lies four leagues S. W. of Cape Horne; which is one of the most conspicuous promontories to the eastward of the celebrated river Malva, otherwise called Mullovia, which is large and deep, and discharges itself into the Mediterranean Sea, over-against the Bay of Almeria, in Spain.

AT some distance from Cape Hone, we find the river Tafna, on the western banks of which are the ruins of an antient city, called Siga, once the capital of Numidia, at present known by the name of Tackumbreet; and is probably the Tabecritum of Leo; though against this supposition some objections may be advanced.

IT would be tedious, and foreign to the design of this collection to detain the rea-

der with the various disputes of geographers, concerning the name and situation of the different places mentioned by Dr. Shaw; it being sufficient for us to take notice of such as are most remarkable. For this reason we shall pass over many rivers, towns, villages, cities, and mountains, till we arrive at Oran, a fortified town about a mile in circumference, built upon the declivity of a mountain, and overlooked by two castles. Less than half a furlong to the westward of this mountain, there is another castle in a situation somewhat higher than the former; but there lying a larger vale between them, their respective ridges are so remarkably disunited, that they form a very convenient landmark for mariners.

To the S. and S. E. there are two castles erected upon the same level with the lower part of the town, but separated from it by a deep winding valley. This may be considered as a natural trench to the south-side of the city, and in the upper part of it, at three furlongs distance from the town, there is a spring of excellent water, more than a foot in diameter. The

rivulet formed by this fountain, adapts its course to the several windings of the valley, and passing under the walls of the city, plentifully supplies it with water. We see at every opening of the valley, such a pleasing confused view of rocky precipices, plantations of orange trees, and rills of water trickling down from them, that nature rarely displays herself in such a variety of prospects, and cool retreats. Near this fountain there is another castle, which forbids all approaches of an enemy, and is an excellent defence to the city.

THREE of these castles are regular polygons; the other two, viz. the highest upon the ridge, and the eastermost of those that lie before the town, are built with battlements and loop-holes, like some old fortifications in England. Oran hath two gates; that which lies nearest the port is called the gate of the sea; over it is built a large square tower, which might be easily fortified. The other is called the gate of Flemish, and has an oblong battery, with several ports for cannon.

ON the N. W. which is the highest part of the city, stands the citadel; on all the

angles of which several pieces of cannon are mounted; whilst the lower and opposite corner to the N. E. is defended by a regular bastion; from all which circumstances Oran must be considered as a place of some consequence; and the Spaniards, who are now possessed of it, would not have made so easy a conquest, without some strange misconduct, or some unaccountable infatuation on the part of the Moors.

THESE Christian conquerors have ornamented the place with several beautiful pieces of architecture, in the Roman style; but yet neither so strong nor so solid as the antients. They have also farther imitated the Romans, in carving upon every convenient place, inscriptions in their own language, the characters of which are large and legible.

IN travelling from Oran to the great Port, there is a small rill of water to be passed, which rises about a furlong from the sea, and has no right to the name of a river.

THREE Roman miles from the port, lies Arzew, the country for some miles behind which is a fertile champain soil. If we

look down upon the sea from some contiguous precipices, we shall find that it must have been a natural safeguard to the city. The water made use of by the inhabitants at present, is lower than the sea, a circumstance that will perhaps account for the brackishness of it. They draw it below the precipices from a number of wells, which, by the masonry, appear to be as old as the city. Yet they have a tradition, that their predecessors were better supplied, in having water conveyed to them by an aqueduct, some of the arches of which are still shewn as a proof of this tradition; yet, as these want the channel, and no farther traces appear in the way to the Sigg and the Tallelet, the only rivers that could furnish the water, we may imagine them rather to have been a part of some other edifice; but of what kind this small fragment is not sufficient to instruct us. However, in some measure to supply the want of such a conveniency, the founders have made the usual provision for collecting the rain-water, by building the whole city upon cisterns. These still subsist, but are converted to a different

use, serving the inhabitants for so many hovels to dwell in.

THERE are several capitals, bases, shafts of pillars, and other antient materials, scattered among the ruins. A well-finished Corinthian capital of Parian marble, supports the smith's anvil; and in the Cadi's house, our author accidentally discovered a beautiful Mosaic pavement, thro' the rents of a ragged carpet spread over it.

FIVE miles to the southward of Arzew, there is a large compass of ground full of salt-pits, from whence the neighbouring people are served with salt. This commodity, from the facility of digging it, the shortness afterwards of the carriage, and the advantage of the adjacent port, would, under any other government, be a branch of trade almost invaluable, as the pits themselves are not to be exhausted. A little to the eastward, is the mouth of the rivers Simkne and Habrah, which unite about three miles before they fall into the sea. Except in the rainy season, these rivers are lost in the sand, when they are out; the place at which they are crossed, is called

El Muchadhah, or the Ford. It lies upon the road from Arzew to Mustygannim.

THE last-mentioned city is built in form of a theatre, and is said to be made up of many villages, formerly separated, but by degrees enlarging into one. There are some unoccupied spaces here that seem to confirm this conjecture, and in one of them particularly, which lies near the centre of the city, there are the remains of an old Moorish castle, which was built before fire-arms were known, as appears from its structure.

MUSTYGANNIM, from one quarter, commands the port, and a fine prospect of the sea; here it is defended by a strong wall of hewn stone, and a castle, in which there is a Turkish garrison. On every other side it is encompassed with hills, whence an enemy might easily annoy it. The chief strength of the place consists in a citadel, erected upon an eminence, which commands both the town and the country adjacent.

MASSAGRAM lies within a furlong of the sea, twelve miles to the N. E. of the ford; it is a small town, enclosed within a mud

wall, and flanked to the W. by a range of hills. Both these places are delightfully situated, in a soil extremely fertile, as well as plentifully supplied with water; and the road between them, which runs along the sea-shore, is pleasantly variegated by gardens, orchards, and handsome country seats.

ON the S. and S. E. they are bounded by a range of hills, that stop the progress of the noxious winds accompanying the hotter seasons; and refreshing streams steal down on every hand. The castle, and some tumbling walls on the N. W. appear, from what remains of them, to have been erected by the Romans.

THERE is a fine fountain to the E. N. E. of Mustygannim, where, according to a tradition among the Arabs, there was once a bloody battle fought, in which the vanquished party were to a man cut off. This place is called Kalmeeta, and three miles to the N. W. of it, is the mouth of the Shelliffe, which is the largest river in the kingdom.

MORE to the E. N. E. in a low swampy situation contiguous to the sea, is Tnis, or

Tennis, which was the metropolis of a petty kingdom, before the conquests of the Barbarossæ; it contains a few miserable huts, and is watered by a brook, which falls into the sea, near a small adjacent island. The harbour is very dangerous, being not at all defended from the west and north winds, which prove fatal to many vessels that touch here in the stormy seasons; and from hence large quantities of corn are shipped for Europe. The Moors have a tradition, that the natives of this place were formerly in such reputation for sorcery, that some of them were employed by Pharaoh to oppose their miracles to those of Moses. They are still the greatest cheats in the whole country, and not at any rate to be trusted. The most remarkable promontory in all Barbary is not far off; it is a high rocky mountain, stretching a good way into the sea; modern geographers call it Cape Tennis, and the Moors distinguish it by the name of the Bell, alluding to a grotto figured in the lower part thereof.

IN a bay, something more than eight leagues to the eastward, is the mouth of

the Teffert, a river of no great consequence, except in the rainy seasons, when it is dangerous to be forded. Five miles distant is Shershell, a city famous for steel, earthen ware, and such utensils of iron as are used among the Kabyles and Arabs. It is made up of low, tiled houses, which take up about a mile of ground; but was formerly of more extent and consequence than at present.

It is certain, that this was once the situation of a city little inferior to Carthage, if we may be allowed to form an opinion of its magnificence from the pillars, capitals, cisterns, and mosaic pavements that are still to be seen. The water of the river Hashem was conducted hither thro' a large sumptuous aqueduct, several fragments of which remain among the neighbouring mountains and valleys to the S. E. and are incontestable proofs of the beauty and grandeur of the work. There are moreover, two other conduits to the S. E. that furnish Shershell with water; and nothing can surely be more inestimable than these legacies of the antients.

THE situation of this place was nobly a-

adapted to strength and beauty. It was secured from the encroachments of the sea by a strong wall near forty feet high, supported by buttresses, and winding by the sea-shore for near two miles. Two furlongs within this wall, the city begins upon a level, and afterwards rises gradually, for more than a mile, to a considerable elevation. One of the principal gates on the land-side, is near the summit of this elevation, and leads to the rugged mountains of the Beni Menasser. Of the two others lying on the sea-shore, the western gate lies under the shade of the high mountains of the Beni Yifrah; and the eastern gate towards the mountainous district of Shenooah.

SHERSHELL being thus shut up by mountains and passes difficult of access, all communication with it may be easily cut off, whenever the neighbouring tribes chuse to be troublesome, a disposition in which they are often found. From this circumstance we may reasonably conclude, that Shershell is no other than Julia Cæsarea; and these words of Procopius confirm the conjecture, viz. " That the Romans could on-

“ly approach it by sea; all the avenues
“by land being in the hands of its neigh-
“bours.” Moreover, the caravans are
thirty days journey between Shershell and
Tunis, the neighbourhood of antient Car-
thage; and it engrossed exactly the same
space of time, according to the author just
now mentioned, to travel from Carthage
to Cæsarea. They have a tradition, that
the city was formerly destroyed by an
earthquake; and that the port, which was
before large and commodious, was thereby
choaked up with buildings. At low wa-
ter, many large pillars, and pieces of wall,
are to be seen at the bottom of the Co-
thon, which communicates with the west-
ern part of the port; and these could not
have been brought hither by any other ac-
cident.

THE Cothon was well contrived for the
convenience and safety of the vessels that
anchored in it; and the founder's ingenu-
ity in supplying it with water, is a topic
worthy of admiration. For this purpose,
several floors and mosaic pavements, were
laid upon an eminence, forming the nor-
thern mound of the port, and the Cothon,

in which the rain-water was received as it fell, and thence passed off by means of some small conduits into an oval cistern, capable of containing many thousand tons of water; and this water was appropriated to the use of the Cothon. The diameter of the port, which is of a circular form, is 200 yards, but that part of it which was formerly most commodious, is now filled up by a sand bank.

THIRTEEN miles E. by S. of Sherfshell, is the city of Tefessad, which appears to be the Tipasa of old geography. We are told by many writers, that the Christian inhabitants of this place were in the fourth century persecuted by the Arians, who ordered their tongues to be cut out; notwithstanding which piece of cruelty, heaven endowed them with the gift of speech, and enabled them, tongueless as they were, to relate their misfortunes.

THE coast all along from Tefessad to Algiers, is, in many places for two or three leagues together, either woody or mountainous, whereby the fine plains of Metejiah, that lie behind it, are conveniently secured from the more immediate in-

fluence of the boisterous northern blasts blowing from the sea.

SEVEN miles from Tefessad, E. by S. upon the mountainous part of the sea-coast, lies the Kuber Romeah, or Roman Sepulchre, which may also be interpreted, the Sepulchre of the Christian Women. It is a solid compact edifice, built of free-stone; the height of it is 100 feet; and, though the Turks have demolished part of it in hopes of finding some treasure, which they suppose to have been buried underneath; yet it is still sufficiently high to serve as a land-mark for mariners. From the elegance of the workmanship, the goodness of the materials, and the form of its construction, we have room to suppose it more antient than the Mahometan conquests; and to be the same monument which is by Mela appropriated to the interment of the kings of Numidia.



C H A P. II.

Of several remarkable places in the Southern Provinces; with some account of the people.

THE most remarkable place which we next find mentioned by Dr. Shaw, is the city of Tremefen, by the Moors pronounced Tlemfan, or Tlemfan. It lies upon a rising-ground, below a range of rocky precipices, which very probably are the Sachratain, spoken of by Edrifi; and upon the first ridge of them is a large strip of level ground, watered by several springs; which flowing some little way in distinct streams, at length unite, and become forceable enough to turn several mills; as these streams approach Tlemfan, they form variety of cascades, which afford an entertaining prospect.

THE city is well watered on every part, from a reservoir, which is filled by subterraneous channels, communicating with the neighbouring mountains. In the west

part of the city, there is a large square bason, of Moorish workmanship, 200 yards long, and 100 broad. Here, according to a tradition credited among the inhabitants, the kings of Tlemſan were wont to take the diversion of ſailing, and their ſubjects to practice the art of navigation. This baſon was perhaps deſigned for a reſervoir of waters in caſe of the city's being beſieged; becauſe the ſources wherewith it was otherwiſe ſupplied, might have been eaſily cut off by an enemy. The moſt part of the walls of Tlemſan are compoſed of a mortar made of ſand, lime, and pebbles; to which time has given the ſtrength and ſolidity of ſtone. In order to ſtifle the more ſpeedily and effectually, any intefine commotions, or to render the attacks of an enemy ſtill more fruitleſs, the city was divided into ſeveral wards; each of which might be conſidered as a diſtinct town in itſelf, being ſurrounded by a high wall.

THE antient Tlemſan was about four miles in circumference; but ſcarcely more than one fixth of it now remains, it having been for the moſt part deſtroyed by

the dey of Algiers, on account of its having been disaffected in the year 1670.

AMONG the ruins are found many fragments of Roman antiquities; and in the walls of an old mosque the Doctor discovered several altars dedicated to the Dii Manes.

IN the village of Hubbed, to the eastward of Tlemfan, there is a tomb much revered by the Mahometans, and a mile to the westward, an enclosed area of two miles circuit, in the center of which is a high tower and a plentiful fountain. On this spot once stood the city of Manfourah, nothing of which, not even a house remains, except the walls, which are of the same nature with those of Tlemfan.

THE plains of Zeidoure begin upon the banks of the Isser, below Tlemfan, and extend themselves through a beautiful interchange of hills and valleys, to the distance of thirty miles. About the middle of these plains, is a high pointed precipice, called, the Pinnacle of the Ravens, below which runs the Sinan. This waters a piece of ground whereon formerly stood a city

of the same name, distant from Tlemfan thirty-two miles to the N. N. E.

THREE or four miles from hence is pointed out the place where Barbaroffa, to elude the pursuit of his enemies, scattered about his treasure; a device that could not secure his escape. There is a Moorish sanctuary on the other side of the river, standing upon an eminence. It is inhabited by several religious, who have no beverage but the water of Wedel Mailah, a neighbouring ford, whose banks are of a gritty substance. All these plains, and the adjacent mountains, are possessed by Welled Aly, and Welled Moufa Ben Abdallah, the hereditary enemies of Welled Zeire and Halfa, who own another part of the country.

EIGHT leagues S. S. E. of Mustygannim lies El Callah; it is built upon an eminence, and surrounded by hills, being but poorly contrived, and having neither drains nor causeways to carry off the filth; it is a great market for carpets, in the manufacturing which, several neighbouring villages are employed.

IN a fine plain, five leagues to the S. W. of El Callah, is a town of mud-walled ca-

bins, called Mascar; it is defended by a little fort, in which, however, no Turks are permitted to garrison.

NINETY miles E. N. E. of Tlemfan, are the ruins of Tagadempt, a large city, which was some years since plundered by the Arabs; who have left manifest and lamentable proofs of their ignorance and barbarity, in the tearing down and destroying several magnificent pieces of architecture, wherewith the place was once ornamented. Nor have they been more kind to Swamma, which is now a heap of rubbish; as is also Loha, eight leagues E. of Tagadempt.

BELOW the Parallel of Loha, is a fertile country, inhabited by a very powerful tribe of Arabs, called Sweede; they are of that rank which pays no tribute, and serve the Algerines as volunteers.

ABOVE the Sweede, from Tagadempt to the Sebbeine Aine, are the encampments of the Welled Booker, behind which are those of the Welled Haleef, a tribe that never tills the ground, but is rich in cattle.

SEVEN miles farther are the ruins of a Roman station, with the Sheliffe running under it; and at eleven miles distance, but

a league from the river, is an old square tower, called Memmounturroy; it was a sepulchral monument of the Romans. The Arabs supposed it to have been built over some treasure; and in this conjecture they were confirmed by an inscription over it, to the following purpose. "My treasure
" is my shade; and my shade is my treasure. Search for it; despair not. Nay,
" despair; do not search."

FIVE miles farther, upon the banks of the river Sheliffe, are the ruins of two large cities, viz. Memnon and Sinaab; the latter must have been, in our author's opinion, much the most considerable, being at least three miles in circuit; though he saw only some pieces of walls, and spacious cisterns remaining. In the neighbourhood a market is kept on Thursdays.

ON an eminence, three miles from Sinaab, of which it commands a view, is a mud-walled village, under the Turkish yoke, named Merjejah; it is only remarkable for being under the protection of the Marrabutts, one of the greatest and most powerful, as well as the most antient family, in this part of the country.

BENI Mashed, the Beni Arax of modern geographers, is in much the same condition and situation. It is situated eight miles E. and by S. of Merjejah, and two miles N. of the river Fuddah. This place made some figure in former ages, having had a citadel, 2000 houses, and a race of warlike inhabitants, that commanded the country as far as El Callah and Mascar. At present it is considerably reduced; the citadel is in ruins, the houses changed into huts; and the inhabitants are become timorous and cowardly. The nature of the soil is however still the same, and produces fruit, particularly figs, remarkably large and delicate.

DESCENDING the mountains of Beni Rashed to the N. you arrive in a fertile plain whereon once stood El Herba, a Roman city, something more than a mile in circuit. Here are several pillars of blue marble, of excellent workmanship; but their capitals, which are of the Corinthian order, are much defaced.

PASSING E. N. E. over a fertile plain, through which the river Sheliffe pleasantly winds, you arrive at Maliana, other-

wife Maniama, built upon a mountain two leagues from El Herba. At a distance it has the appearance of a multiplicity of buildings and antiquities; from inspecting which, a virtuoso may promise himself a sufficient recompence for his trouble in climbing it: but here he will find himself deceived; the place consisting only of a few houses covered with tiles. However, it has many advantages, being well watered, in a wholesome situation, commanding a delightful and extensive prospect, and surrounded by pleasant vineyards, and delightful gardens.

HITHER the devout people of Bleda, Algiers, &c. repair in great numbers in spring, to pay their devotions at the shrine of Sede Youséph, the titular saint. Here are some fragments of Roman architecture; and from an inscription upon one of them, it is probable that in this obscure place the grandson, and great grandson of Pompey, lie interred. It is impossible to reflect upon the misfortunes of this hero and his family, without being sensibly affected; and here the following elegant epigram of Martial naturally occurs.

*Pompejos juvenes Asia atq; Europa, sed ipsum
Terra tegit Libyes: si tamen ulla tegit.
Quid mirum tota si spargitur orbe? Facere
Uno non poterat tanta ruina loco.*

EIGHT miles E. N. E. of Maliana, half way between Stoeli and the sea, are the baths of Mereega, the *Aquæ Calidæ* Colonia of the antients; the largest and most frequented of these baths, is a basin twenty feet square, and four deep; here the water bubbles up in a degree of heat just supportable, and hence passes off, having filled this, to a neighbouring cistern, made use of by the Jews, who are not allowed to bathe in company with Mahometans. Both these baths are now open to the weather, and half filled with stones and rubbish; though at one time they were well covered, and kept in excellent order. Numbers of people afflicted with rheumatism, jaundice, and other ill habits of body, resort hither in the spring-time, and are said to find some alleviation of their grievances.

HIGHER up the hill is another bath, the

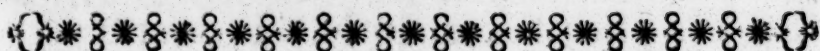
water of which being too hot, is conveyed into another room, where it is made use of in an operation of the same nature and effect with our pumping.

BETWEEN these two baths there are the ruins of another Roman town, equal in size to El Herba, wherein are found tombs and stone coffins of an unusual bigness: of these, as well as of a thigh bone immoderately large, which was here dug up, our author speaks not from his own knowledge, but from hearsay; and it must be observed, that the Arabs are fond of the wonderful; and rather than want stories worthy of this epithet, they will coin them.

THE largeness of the bones that are sometimes raked up among the sepulchres, may be easily accounted for, if we remember, that the Goths and Vandals often buried the horse, sword, armour, and all his accoutrements, with a deceased soldier. This custom passed over with them very probably into Africa; the natives of which not being nice anatomists, might confound the bones of the horse with those of the man; and this assertion with regard to interment, is confirmed by the many long

fwords with handles, shaped like crosses, that are often taken up in this country.

THESE baths are surrounded by steep valleys, neither to be climbed nor crossed, without much difficulty; which is however compensated by a succeeding view of the delightful plains of Metijiah, stretching away to the northward, for more than fifty miles in length, and twenty in breadth, well watered by several winding rivulets and wholesome springs. Here are many fine country seats and farms that supply Algiers with provisions; and besides, fruit, pot-herbs, rice, and grain of every sort; the soil abounds also with flax and alhenna. Being now arrived near the renowned city last mentioned, we shall pass by many towns and villages of no great consequence, at least in these days, to come to our author's description of this, which we imagine one of the most important places in this part of the world.



C H A P. III.

The city of Algiers, and some part of the adjacent country described.

ALGIERS, furnamed by the Turks the Warlike, which has for ages braved the utmost power of Christendom, is not more than a mile and a half in circumference. Yet it is thought to contain 100,000 Mahometans, among whom there are scarcely more than 30 renegadoes; 15,000 Jews, and 2000 Christian slaves; it faces the N. and N. E. and is situated upon the declivity of a hill, whereby the houses rising gradually one above another, have, almost all of them, a full view of the sea. The walls are weak, unless where strengthened by some additional fortifications.

THE Cauffabah, which is built upon the highest part of the city, and makes the western angle of it, is of an octagonal figure; each of the sides in view having their proper port-holes or embrasures. The north

angle near the gate of the river, and the south angle near Bab-azoone, are each of them guarded with a small bastion. The new gate, lying between Bab-azoone and the Cauffabah, hath a square upright battery; and betwixt the Cauffabah and Babelwed, there are port holes, with a few pieces of cannon. The ditch which formerly surrounded the city, is now almost entirely filled up, except at Babelwed and Bab-azoone; where likewise it would be of little consequence. From Babelwed and Bab-azoone to the Cauffabah, each way, is about three furlongs, in an ascent of fifteen or twenty degrees.

BETWIXT Babelwed and the sandy bay that lieth a furlong from it to the N. W. is the castle of Sitteet Ako-leet, built for the most part in a regular manner, and very capable of annoying an enemy, both in their landing, and lodging themselves afterwards in the Bohyras, as they call the adjacent plains and gardens. Half a mile to the west of Bab-azoone is the Ain-Rebat, where there is likewise another sandy bay, betwixt which and Algiers, the road is more strait and rugged than at Babel-

wed, though in the narrowest part of it, thirty men may march in front. There is a castle for the security of this road, but it is inferior in strength and extent to that of Sitteet Akoleet. Both these bays are overlooked by a ridge of hills lying nearly upon a level with the Caussabah. Two convenient castles are built here, one of which, called from its five acute angles, the Castle of the Star, is within a furlong of the Caussabah, and commandeth the sandy bay at Babelwed; the other, called the Emperor's Castle, hath a full command of the Castle of the Star, and the sandy bay towards Ain-Rebat.

BEYOND Babelwed, as far as Ras Accou-natter, the shore is made up of rocks and precipices; but to the eastward of Algiers, from Ain-Rebat, round a large bay to Temendfuse, it is accessible in most places. The emperor Charles V. in his unfortunate expedition, A. D. 1541, against this city, landed his army at Ain-Rebat, where there still remains a fragment of the pier, supposed to have been erected for that purpose: the better likewise to secure a correspondence with his fleet, and to suc-

cour his troops in their intended approaches towards the city, he possessed himself of the ridge lately described, where he built the inner part of the castle that continues to be called after his name. Such is the strength and situation of Algiers to the landward; but towards the sea we shall find it better fortified; and capable to make a more strenuous defence. For the embrasures in this direction are all employed; the guns are of brass, and their carriages, and other utensils in good order.

THE battery of the mole gate upon the east angle of the city, is mounted with several long pieces of ordnance, one of which hath seven cylinders, each of them three inches in diameter. Half a furlong to the W. S. W. of the harbour, is the battery of Fisher's gate, or the gate of the sea, which, consisting of a double row of cannon, commands the entrance of the port, and the road before it.

THE port is of an oblong figure, 130 fathom long, and 80 broad. The eastern mound of it, which was formerly the island, is well secured by several fortifications. The castle, built by the Spaniards,

whilst they were masters of the island, and the two remote batteries, erected within this century, are said to be bomb-proof; and have each of them their lower embrasures mounted with 36 pounders; but the middle battery, which appears to be the oldest, is the least defensible. Here it may be observed, that none of the fortifications mentioned by our author, are assisted with either mines or advanced works; so that the soldiers who are to guard and defend them, cannot be kept to any regular duty; in which case a few resolute battalions, protected by a small squadron of ships, would have no great difficulty to make themselves masters of the very strongest of them.

THE naval force of the Algerines hath been some years in a declining condition; if we except their rowboats and brigantines; they had A. D. 1732, six capital ships, from 36 to 50 guns, and at the same time had not half that number of experienced officers. A general peace with the three trading nations, and the impossibility of keeping up a suitable discipline, where every private soldier disputes authority with

his officer, are some of the principal reasons why so small a number of vessels are fitted out, and why so few persons of merit are afterwards willing to command them. Their want likewise of experience, with the few engagements they have lately been concerned in at sea, have equally contributed to the diminution of their naval character. However, if by proper discipline and encouragement they should once more assume their wonted courage and bravery, they have always in readiness such a quantity of naval stores, as will put them in a condition of making considerable augmentations to their fleet, though even at present, we find them troublesome enough to the trade of Europe.

THERE is little within the city that merits the attention of the curious; upon the great mosque we have some broken inscriptions, which, though of a sufficient bigness to be seen at a distance, are all of them filled up to that degree with lime and white wash, that our author could never particularly distinguish them.

THEIR public buildings are such as their bagnios, &c. Their officers are, the mus-

ti, cadì, &c. The inhabitants, as Jews and Moors, &c. have been already sufficiently described by several authors. The additions therefore which I have to make, will relate chiefly to the government, the army, and the political interests and alliances of this regency; but of those in their proper place.

ALGIERS, from the distance and situation of it, with respect to the Tefessad, should be the antient Icosium, placed in the Itinerary forty-seven miles from Tipasa. Leo and Marmol inform us, that it was formerly called Mesgana, from an African family of that name. The present name Al-je-zeire, or Al-je-zeirah (for so we shall pronounce it) signifieth in this language the Island, so called from being in the neighbourhood of the eastern mound of the harbour, which till after the time of the Turkish conquests, was severed from the continent. In their public letters and records they stile it the Island in the west, to distinguish it from a city of the same name near the Dardanelles.

THE hills and valleys round about Algiers, are every where beautified with gar-

dens and country seats, where the inhabitants of better fashion reside during the summer season. The country seats are little white houses, shaded by a variety of fruit trees, and ever-greens, whereby they afford a gay and delightful prospect towards the sea, the gardens are well stocked with melons, fruit, and pot-herbs of all kinds; and, what is chiefly regarded in these hot climates, each of them enjoys a great command of water, from the many rivulets and fountains which every where present themselves in this situation.

THE fountain water made use of in Algiers, universally esteemed to be excellent, is likewise brought through a long course of pipes and conduits, from these sources. Four miles to the S. of Algiers is the river Haratch, which rises behind the mountains of the Beni Mousah, and joining the Fig River, runs through the richest part of the Mettijah. It is about half as big as the Masaffran, and had formerly a bridge built over it at a small distance from the sea. Bleeda and Nedea, the only inland cities of this province, are each of them about a mile in circuit; but their walls being made

up chiefly of mud, perforated in most places by the hornet, cannot be presumed to contribute much to their security. Some of their houses are flat roofed, others like those of Maliana, with which they also agree in being well watered, and in having all around them very fruitful gardens and plantations.

A BRANCH of an adjacent rivulet may be carried through every house and garden at Bleeda, whilst the several conduits and aqueducts that supply Medea with water, some of which appear to have been the work of the Romans, are capable of being made equally commodious. Both these cities lie over-against the mouth of the Mafaffran, viz. Bleeda at five leagues distance, under the shade of mount Atlas, and Medea three leagues beyond it, on the other side of this mountain.

JURJURA, the highest mountain in Barbary, is at least eight leagues long, lying nearly in a N. E. and S. W. direction: it appears to be from one end to another a continued range of naked rocks and precipices, and secures by its rugged situation, a number of Kabyles from becoming tribu-

tary to the Algerines. Of these, the Beni Alia, and the Beni Sittaka are the most noted on the N. W. side, towards the Benikoofy; as the Beni Yali are to the S. E. towards the Welled Mansoure; on which side, near the middle, there is likewise a pool of good water, bordered round with arable ground.

THE ridge of this mountain is covered with snow, and it is very remarkable that the inhabitants of the one side should maintain an hereditary and implacable animosity against those of the other; whilst, by consent, a little snow puts a full stop to their hostilities, during the winter season. Jurjura, as well from its extraordinary ruggedness, as from the situation of it betwixt Dellys and Boujeiah, should be either the principal part, or the whole of the Mons Ferratus, taken notice of by the geographers of the middle age.

IF we return back again to the westward, we shall find to the southward of mount Atlas, and the Summata, the Arabo Zengera and Boudarna, with their fountains Ras el wed, Dim, and Athreede: these tribes possess a fine country, made up of

hills and valleys; and at Ain Athreede there are the traces of an old city.

EIGHT miles to the S. S. E. of the Boudarna, and at the like distance to the S. W. of Medea, are the fruitful districts of Wamre and Amoura, both of them watered by the Harboone. This river is chiefly collected from the fountains of Medea, and near the western banks of it, as it passeth through Amoura to join the Shelliffe, there are some considerable ruins watered by a plentiful fountain.

THE Arabs call them Herba, a name common to other places, and by which they denote something broken up or pillaged. The Burgh Swaary castle, in the district of the Swaary, lieth four leagues to the S. W. of Ain Baseef, and ten to the southward of Medea. It is a small fort built upon the skirts of the Sahara, and was a few years ago one of the frontier garrisons of the Algerines.

THREE leagues to the E. N. E. of the Burgh, is the eastern extremity of the Titterie Dosh, as the Turks call the Rock of Titterie, a remarkable ridge of precipices running parallel with the plains of Beni Ha-

leefa. They are four leagues in length, and are, if possible, more rugged than Jurjura. Upon the summit of them, there is a large piece of level ground, with only one narrow road leading up to it, where for the greater security the Welled Eifa have their granaries. Beyond the Welled Eifa, are the encampments of the Welled In Anne, the principal Arabs of the district of Titterie, properly so called, which lieth in the neighbourhood only of this mountain.

ANOTHER considerable clan, made up of the families of Maithie, Noile, and Melleeke, spread themselves over Getulia, from the Burg Swaary to the mountains of the Amner, thirty-five leagues to the southward of which mountains, begins the country of the Beni Mezzob, a tribe of the sect of Melasti, which pays no tribute, its members having been from time immemorial employed in the slaughter-houses of Algiers; but are not permitted to set foot in the Mosques: they are more swarthy than the people inhabiting Getulia farther to the northward; from whom they are divided by a wide inhospitable desert.

THE next province described by our author, is Constantina, which is more than 230 miles long, and above 100 broad; and the viceroy pays into the treasury of Algiers between 80 and 100,000 dollars yearly; whereas the Titterie Bey scarcely collects more than 12000; and the western Bey from 40 to 50,000. The sea-coast is mountainous and rocky; but no part of the Spanish dominions can be discovered from them; although Albufedah affirms the contrary.

THE river Booberak is the western boundary of this province, and at a league's distance, upon the sea-coast, at the foot of a high mountain, the town of Delly rises out of the ruins of a large city; where just over the harbour in an old wall, is a mutilated statue, which seems to have been intended for a Madona; the drapery and features of it are particularly defaced: the inhabitants here complain much of want of water. Twelve leagues S. E. of Dellys, is a noted promontory, crowned with some ruins, and called Ash-oune-mon-kar, five leagues from which, is a rocky island, and at a little distance a cave, where the Spa-

nish priests, who have been for ages settled at Algiers, pretend to affirm, that Raymond Lully, in his African mission, used frequently to retire to contemplate.

ONE hundred and one Roman miles from Dellys, which is supposed to be the antient Mufucurium, is Boujeiah, a garrison, but of so little consequence, that it is perpetually blocked up by the neighbouring tribes, or Kabyles; who raise strange disorders in the neighbourhood, especially on market-days. For though the business of the market is conducted with great tranquillity, yet no sooner is it over, than these factious clans begin their outrage; and the day seldom concludes without some flagrant instance of their barbarity. The adjacent country furnishes plenty of wax and oil; and the mountains afford good iron, whence are made mattocks, ploughshares, and other useful implements, in all which the inhabitants drive a considerable trade. One has some room to imagine Boujeiah more antient than Algiers, because Albufedah particularly mentions the former, but is quite silent with regard to the latter; so that in his time it was either

not built, or else of little or no signification. The only remarkable thing here is the tomb of a certain saint called Seedy Busgree, to which there is a good resort of people. Here was formerly a fine aqueduct for supplying the port with water; but this, together with the basons, walls, &c. are intirely destroyed.

THE Europeans call Boujeiah, Bugia; it is built upon the ruins of an old city, in a situation much like that of Dellys; but the circuit of it was much larger: great part of the wall is still remaining, which is carried up to the top of the mountain. Here are three castles, one on the top of the mountain commanding the city; and two at the bottom to secure the port. Sir Edward Spraggs once cannonaded this place, and the marks of his fire are still visible on the walls of one of the castles.

THIRTEEN leagues from Boujeiah, is Iijel, the Igilgie of the antients; leaving which, and passing many towns no ways remarkable, as well as several rivers and rivulets, we arrive at length at the river Zoore, which rises among the mountains of Beni Welbaan, and being encreased in its

course through a high craggy tract of land, by several adventitious springs, at length empties itself into the sea, being first swelled to a very considerable river. The clans who dwell upon, and drink of this river, live in caves; and if they espy a ship at a distance in bad weather, myriads of them cover the shore, praying to heaven for its destruction; and there is no mercy to be expected from them; for they are void of humanity, and strangers to the feelings of pity.

ON a neck of land, lying between the rivers Sei-boufe, and Boojemah, lie the ruins of the antient Hippo, of which St. Augustin was bishop; and a place said to have been his convent is pointed out by the Moors, who make of it a profitable livelihood. It was called Hippo Regits, as well to distinguish it from Hippo Zarytus, as on account of its having been the residence of the kings of Numidia.

WE are told by Silius Italicus, that it was a place, of which the kings were very fond; nor is there any thing wonderful in Hippo, if we consider that this liking was not only strong and well fortified, but

also extremely healthful, and well situated for trade, commerce, hunting, and diversion. Besides a most delightful prospect, the eye here at one view takes in the sea, a spacious harbour, diversity of mountains loaden with trees, and plains finely watered.

ALL along the coast there are many capes, of which it cannot be expected that we should give a particular account; doubling one of them called Rosa, we enter a small creek, where there are the ruins of a fort, which once belonged to a French factory settled here, by the African company of France; but the unwholesomeness of the place, and the noisome damps arising from the neighbouring ponds and marshes, obliged them to remove to La Calle. There is another inlet, three leagues farther E. where these gentlemen have a magnificent house and gardens, a company of soldiers, a good quantity of arms, and several pieces of ordnance. They command the trade of the whole country, and reap vast advantages from the coral fishery, in which they constantly employ 300 men. They buy up all the corn, wool, hides, and wax,

exclusive of every other person or power; and for that privilege pay among the government of Algiers, the Kaide of Bona, and the chiefs of the neighbouring Arabs, upwards of 5000 guineas. Some of the tribes inhabiting these skirts and frontiers, are tributary to Tunis; and for the most part savage and inhospitable to the last degree.



C H A P. III.

Of several remarkable places, and numerous tribes in the province of Constantina, and the neighbouring districts.

FROM the sea-coast up to Seteef and Constantina, the country is one continued chain of high hills; the access to which being almost impracticable, the inhabitants to the westward defying the utmost power of the Algiers, pay no tribute to the viceroy. Among those to the E. the Turks have a flying camp during the summer season, whereby some of the Kabyles are reduced to give tokens of homage;

but they are so tenacious of their rights, that they scarcely vouchsafe to think of it, till compelled thereto by fire and sword. The prospect hereabouts is finely varied with hills and dales, and large tracts of land fit for culture; which last however fall off, as they approach a long range of mountains, supposed by Dr. Shaw to be the Buzara of the antients.

THE richest and most powerful Kabyles in this province are the Zwowah, who possess a large tract of high impenetrable territory, whence they sometimes make excursions to the annoyance of the Turks.

AMONG their many Dashkaras is the church of the Cistern, where there is a college, and the famous sepulchre of Seedy Hamet Ben Dreefe. Under their protection are many lesser clans; also under the protection of the Beni Abbess, who have their metropolis at a place called Callah. Next to the Kwowah they are the most numerous clan in this province, being able to bring 3000 horse, and 1500 foot soldiers into the field; and as they lie directly upon the great road to Constantina, they are frequently engaged in war, and laid under

contribution. Whenever they have had the rashness to revolt, their breach of faith has been severely chastised; for they are sure to suffer most, as being the weaker party. At Callay they make excellent fire-arms. Among the mountains of the Beni Abbess, there is a narrow defile, which winds for near half a mile, under an exceeding high precipice; it is in several places crossed by a rock, through which a passage is cut like a door-case, about the width of six or seven feet. These apertures the Arabs call simply the gates; but the Turks, in consideration of their strength and ruggedness, give them the additional epithet of iron. Here a handful of men might dispute the passage of a whole army; and indeed there is something horrid in barely going through them.

FARTHER on, there is another dangerous pass, where the road lies upon a narrow ridge, with deep vallies and yawning precipices on every side; so that the least deviation from the beaten path must be attended with inevitable destruction.

THERE are innumerable clans in this tract of mountains, of whom we can say

nothing remarkable; they end at Zammorah, where begin the plains of Suderatah. Beyond these dwell the tribe of Amner, who spread themselves a great way along the banks of the rivers Kubber-atteah and Boofellam; they are a powerful but infamous clan, openly prostituting their wives and daughters to every comer. There are many ruins in this district; but none worth remarking, except those of Seteef, once the metropolis of this part of Mauritania, and the Sitapha of the antients. This city was built upon a rising ground, about a league in circuit; but the Arabs have destroyed all the works of the Romans so effectually, that they have scarcely left a single fragment of antiquity standing; in the heart of the city there were fountains, which were equally delightful and convenient, and from whence water might have been easily distributed to every necessary quarter.

It is remarkable, that the natives of the coast are in general of a swarthy complexion, with dark hair; whereas, as you advance to the mountains of Aurefs, you find them fair, or ruddy, and yellow haired: hence one may conjecture, that they are

some remains of the Vandals, who united among these mountains in bands.

THE Hummum Melkouten, or Inchant-ed Baths, which lie among some other mountains at a distance, are worth a visit from such persons as chance to travel this way. The fountains whence they are filled, are intensely hot; and there are some springs near the river Zenoti, into which they all empty themselves, that are as cold in extremes. There are a few houses built on the banks of the river for the benefit of such as come hither to use the water.

THE next place which we shall speak of, is Constantina, otherwise Certā, which is forty-eight Roman miles from the sea, and in history reckoned to have been once one of the strongest and chiefest cities in Numidia. It is about a mile in circumference, but ending to the northward in a precipice of at least a hundred fathom perpendicular.

IN this direction there is a beautiful landskip, arising from a variety of mountains and rivers extending far away.

To the eastward, the prospect is bounded by an adjacent range of rocks, much

higher than the city; but towards the S. E. the country is more open, presenting a distant view of the mountains of Seedy Rougeise; and the peninsular promontory of Eiganh is separated from the neighbouring plains, by a deep narrow valley, perpendicular on both sides, through which runs the river; and here was formerly a bridge of excellent workmanship.

THE neck of land to the S. W. near which stood the principal gate of the city, is about the breadth of half a furlong, being entirely covered with a series of broken walls, cisterns, and other ruins, which are continued quite down to the river; and carried on from thence, over a strip of plain ground, that runs parallel with the deep narrow valley already described.

SUCH was the situation and extent of the antient Cirta; but the present city hath not the same dimensions.

BESIDES the general traces of diversity of ruins scattered over this place, there are still remaining near the centre of the city, that particular set of cisterns, which perhaps received the waters brought thither from Phisgeah by an aqueduct. They are

twenty in number, making an area of fifty yards square.

THE aqueduct is still in a more ruinous condition than the cisterns; however, the fragments which have continued down to this time, sufficiently demonstrate the public spirit of the antient inhabitants. Upon the brink of the precipice to the northward, there are the remains of a large and magnificent edifice, where the Turkish garrison is lodged at present. Four of the bases, each seven feet in diameter, with their respective pedestals, are still in their places, and seem to have appertained to the portico; they are of a black stone, little inferior to marble, hewn in all probability out of that very range of rocky precipices, upon which they are founded. The side-posts of the principal gate of the city, which are of a beautiful reddish stone, not inferior to marble, are very neatly moulded, and an altar of pure white marble makes part of a neighbouring wall; the side of which in view, presents us with a well-shaped *Simpulum*, in a bold relief.

THE gate towards the S. E. is of the same fashion, though much smaller; and

lying open to the bridge, mentioned to have been built over this part of the valley. The bridge was a master-piece in its kind; having had the gallery and the columns of the arches adorned with festoons, ox-heads, and garlands. The key-stones likewise of the arches are charged with Caducei, and other figures: betwixt the two principal arches, in a strong well executed relief, is the figure of a lady, treading upon two elephants, with a large scollop-shell for her canopy. The elephants having their faces turned towards each other, twist their trunks together; and the lady, who appears dressed with a close-bodied garment, like the riding-habit of our times, and no covering on her head, raises up her petticoats with her right hand, and looks scornfully upon the city: this groupe, in any other situation, might be supposed to belong to some fountain, it being well known, that they were sometimes laid out in such ludicrous and wanton designs.

BELOW the bridge, the river Rummel begins to run in a northward direction, in which it continues for about a quarter of a mile, through a subterranean passage, which

nature seems providently to have prepared for its waters, since otherwise they must have here formed a prodigious lake, and overflowed the country before they found a passage to the sea.

AMONG a parcel of ruins to the S. W. of the bridge, there are the remains of a triumphal arch called the Giant; it consists of three arches, the most spacious of which is the middlemost, which has on each side pilasters of the Corinthian order, and is embellished with carvings of flowers, battle-axes, and other neat ornaments. Under the precipice lie luke-warm springs, called Marabbutt Seedy Meamon, after a saint of that name, who lies near at hand interred; and a quarter of a mile to the east, the Rummel falls from its subterranean passage in a fine cascade; and criminals are to this day precipitated into the river from that part of the city, which here lies above it. A little way beyond the cascade is a neat clear fountain, full of tortoises.

LEAVING Constantina to the N. and N. W. you enter upon a district the most extensive, as well as the most fertile in all Numidia; it is peopled by a gallant tribe

called Henneifah, who have often been of signal service to the Algerines.

THIS whole country is finely watered, and was once thickly interspersed with towns and villages, of which the only remaining vestiges are heaps of rubbish, without name or inscription to determine what they have been.

THE midland boundary of this kingdom is the river Seratt, the waters of which are brackish, and discharge themselves into the Me-jerdah. Near the western banks of it, upon a high pointed mountain, which can be approached only by one narrow road, is a considerable village called Callah, which, on account of the strength of its situation, serves as a refuge for the villains and outcasts of Algiers and Tunis; and here they commonly remain till they have either compounded for their crimes, or otherwise procured themselves pardon. One of the most remarkable frontier towns of the Algerines is Tipfa, or Tibessa; it has an Algerine garrison, and shews some marks of antiquity; the situation is very fine, and rendered still more agreeable by some mountains at a distance.

THE capital of Zaab is called Biscara; here is a Turkish garrison, lodged in a small castle lately built by the Bey of Constantina; and the chief strength of it lies in six pieces of ordnance, and a few unwieldy muskets mounted also upon carriages.

ALL over this province the footsteps of the Romans may be traced by broken inscriptions, and mouldering monuments that have partly escaped the fury of the Arabs; and some stone-coffins have been lately dug up near the village of Bantease. The inhabitants of Zaab are to this day fond of eating dogs flesh, for which the Carthaginians were once remarkable; and hence are they called Canarii. Having thus as briefly as possible run over a short description of the most remarkable places, and the most noted tribes in the kingdom of Algiers; we shall proceed with our author through Tunis; and then take a short view of the state of these kingdoms together, considered not only in regard to the temperature of the climate, but also with respect to their legislative constitution, and political interests.



C H A P. IV.

Of the kingdom of Tunis in general, and the most remarkable places in the summer circuit described.

THE kingdom of Tunis is, according to the most accurate computation, about 220 miles broad, and 170 long; on the S. it is bounded by Tripoli; on the W. by Algiers; and it is washed by the Mediterranean Sea on the E. and N. Sbekkah, the most western city of this dominion, lies in 8d. W. long. from London; and Clybea, the most eastern in 11 d. 20 m. E. long.

TUNIS is not divided into provinces like Algiers, but into the summer and winter circuit; so called from the Bey's assigning each of these seasons to a visit into a particular district, where his person is necessary to collect the tribute. In summer his journey is through the fertile country that lies in the neighbourhood of Keff and Baijah; in winter he travels between Cairwan and

Jaraide; and these two divisions, according to which we shall describe this kingdom, correspond nearly to the Regio Keugitana, and the Bizacium of the antients.

THE summer circuit is better inhabited than any part of the neighbouring kingdoms of the like bigness, and has a greater number of cities, villages, &c. The people are also more chearful, more affluent, and kinder, because, perhaps the government is less severe and oppressive. It is in general pretty fruitful; but the fertility is interrupted by hills, marshes, and rugged plains, that will admit of no cultivation; nor of any manner of improvement.

IN the river Zaine, which waters this part of the country, lies the small island of Ta-barka, which the Genoese rent from the regency; but the coral fishing, which was their chief motive to this settlement, failing considerably, it is not probable, that they will chuse to keep the possession long. They have, however, built a good fort, of force sufficient to protect them from the incursions of the lawless Arabs, as well as from the insults of the cruising vessels of Tunis, Algiers, and Tripoli.

FIVE leagues to the N. E. is cape Negro, where the French African company have fortified a settlement; for which, and the immunities they enjoy, they pay a considerable sum of money to the regency of Tunis.

UPON a canal, betwixt an extensive lake and the sea, lies the city of Bizerta, eight miles from cape Blanco, which is distant from cape Negro nine leagues. It is about a mile round, and defended, more especially towards the sea, by several castles and batteries. The lake has a communication with the sea, into which it empties itself with a forceable and discernable stream, when the wind is at south. On the contrary, when the wind is northerly, the waters of the sea flow briskly up the lake.

THE channel of communication between the lake and the sea, is the port of Hippo, which is still capable of receiving small vessels; and was once not only one of the safest, but also one of the most beautiful havens upon the coast. Here was a large pier which ran out far into the sea, and thereby destroyed the force of the north winds; however, the Turks have let that

and some other improvements run to ruins ; and thus is a haven destroyed, which in other hands would be an inestimable treasure. Bizerta abounds with fish, fruit, corn, pulse, oil, and various other productions.

FROM the gulph of Bizerta there is an extensive prospect of olive plantations, and very beautiful groves ; it is bounded by a high ridge of rocks ; the eastern extremity of which, high and pointed, as well as remarkably white, is called Pil-loe, after a favourite dish of the Turks, which it is thought to resemble. And four leagues to the N. N. W. are two small flat islands, called the Cani, near which the Italian row-boats lie frequently in wait for the Tunisian cruizers.

UPON the side of a spacious navigable basin, formed by the river Mejerdah, lies Porto Farina ; where some years since, there was a considerable city ; the place is, at present, only remarkable for its beautiful Cothon, which contains the navy of Tunis, and is safe from the weather.

THE Mejerdah waters, with a meandering stream, a rich fertile country, and like the Nile, makes encroachments upon

the sea, by heaping mud and filth together in different places, that become thereby dry land; thus it is often driven out of its old to seek a new channel. This is the famous Bagrada of history, on the banks of which Regulus is said to have killed a monstrous serpent, which Pliny tells us, was 120 feet long.

It is certain that Utica lay somewhere in this direction; but we shall not be able to fix its exact situation, unless we allow that the sea has been driven back for three or four miles by the easterly winds, and the encrease of mud; and this point once granted, we may justly place that small but celebrated city at Boo-shater, where are many traces of noble and extensive buildings, magnificent cisterns, and a large aqueduct. This place is twenty-seven Roman miles from Carthage.

THIS very celebrated city is the next to be described, and has undergone some of the same changes with respect to the sea, as those sustained by Utica; for its old harbour is at present choaked up, and the sea has retired to some distance.

THERE are no triumphal arches, no pie-

ces of curious architecture to be seen now, whereby one might be able to ascertain the identity of this famous place, which was once the rival of old Rome. It was built upon three hills, of an indifferent height, and had a variety of cisterns, which have escaped the general ruin rather better than any other public buildings. Near the greater cisterns are the ruins of an antient and celebrated aqueduct, which was certainly a work of extraordinary labour, and beautifully faced with hewn stone.

ALMOST every house was furnished with a cistern for saving water; and at Saka-rah, whither the suburbs probably extended, there is a continuation of channels so contrived, as to admit water by percolation. It would be difficult to determine what extraordinary supplies the cisterns might have afforded; but it is certain, that at Algiers, a city furnished now with the same conveniences that Carthage was formerly, the rain-water is seldom or never sufficient to supply the wants of the people: in Carthage it must have been much less so, if we consider the number of horses, elephants, and other animals, which were moreover to be maintained.

EIGHT miles W. S. W. of the cape of Carthage, there is the Gulletta, a small channel that joins the lake of Tunis to the sea; and it is on each side guarded by a pretty tolerable castle. The lake was formerly large enough to admit a numerous fleet of ships; but now in summer time the main channel of it is scarcely more than six or seven feet deep; and for the space of a mile or more within the banks, it is nauseous and dry, being filled up by the common shores of Tunis. In this lake are caught the largest and best mullets that are to be found upon the coast of Barbary: the roes of them when pressed and dried are called Botargo, and esteemed a great rarity.

TUNIS, the capital of this kingdom, is three miles round, but not so populous as Algiers; neither are the houses so spacious and magnificent: it lies on the western banks of the lake, having Carthage full in sight; and if viewed from the sea, it appears surrounded with chalky cliffs; whence, perhaps Diodorus Siculus calls it Tunis the white: the air is healthful and fragrant, being much purified by the mas-

tick, myrtle, rosemary, and other aromatick plants used here in the ovens or bagnios. Were it not for this, the place would be more unwholesome than it is; for tho' it lies on an eminence, it is not above the influence of the vapours rising from the marshes that surround it. And if we except a scarcity of good water, their wells being all brackish, we shall find here plenty of all the necessaries of life. The Tunisians are the most civilized race among the Barbarians; they are more intent upon trade than rapine, and are fond of cultivating the friendship of Christians. The sanctuary of Seedy Doude lies at some distance from Tunis; it takes its name from Doude or David, a Moorish saint, whose sepulchre is here shewn five yards in length; however, that this venerable structure was no more than a *prætorium Romanum* appears plain to the learned from three contiguous pieces of Mosaic pavement, wrought with great symmetry and proportion: the figures are horses, trees, birds, and fishes; the inlaying is very fine, and the colours so beautiful, that they may be set on a footing with tolerable good paint-

ing: the horse hereon represented, is in the same bold attitude given to that noble animal in the Carthaginian banners; the birds, are the hawk and partridge; the fishes, the mullet and gilt-head; the trees, the palm and olive. The designer perhaps meant them as symbols: thus, for example, the horse is the symbol of strength; the palm and olive, imply peace and plenty, &c. All around are the ruins of the antient Nifua or Misua, where there was once a safe and capacious harbour for shipping: a few leagues further on, there are several antique fragments, not at all remarkable, at a place now called Lowhare; here stood the antient Aquilaria, where Curio landed those troops that were afterwards cut in pieces by Sabura. It is a village situated half a mile from the sea, and in the way between them is a mountain hollowed with great art from the level of the sea to the height of near thirty feet, and supported by pillars and arches, left to that end standing: in some places it is perforated quite through, for the free admission of air. These are the quarries mentioned by Strabo, from which the stone

was dug up which was used in building Carthage, Utica, and other adjacent cities. No body can have a better idea of this mountain and the cave formed within it, than Virgil presents us with, in the following lines of the *Æneid*; which, in doctor Shaw's opinion, were intended as an actual description of this very spot.

*Est in secessu longo locus : Insula portum,
Efficit objecta laterum : quibus omnis ab alto
Frangitur ; inque sinus scindit sese unda re-
ductos.*

*Hinc atque hinc vastæ rupes, geminique mi-
nantur*

*In cælum scopuli quorum sub vertice late
Æquora tuta silente tum sylvis scena coruscis
Desuper, horrentique atrum nemus imminet
umbra.*

*Fronte sub adversa scopulis pendentibus atrum :
Intus aquæ dulces ; vivoque sedilia saxo.
Nympharum domus.*

CAPE Bon, by the antients called the Promontory of Mercury, lies a league to the northward ; and from the top of this promontory the hills of Sicily may be plainly

discerned in fair weather. Five leagues E. and by S. of Cape Bon, is Tophitis, a small promontory, whereon once stood the city of Clubea, or Clypea; so called from its having been built in the shape of a shield. Scarcely the ruins of it are now remaining; there is indeed a castle, but of a modern structure, and at a mile off a parcel of miserable hovels, bearing the name of Clybea. Masaniffa was drowned as he fled from Bocchar, in a river a little to the southward; the bottom lies far under the surface of the water, and the crossing is precarious. In the open fields, on the opposite shore, Bocchar killed forty-six out of fifty persons that were the companions of Masaniffa's flight.

SEVEN leagues S. W. and by W. of Clybea, is Gurba, a place of some importance in former times: the port, which was a good one, was destroyed by the sea; a fate in which, also, the port of the neighbouring city of Nabal shared. Some traces of each may, in calm weather, be seen under water. Nabal is famous for its potteries, and the people seem to be warmed with a spirit of industry. It lies

in a low situation about a mile from the sea-shore, and a furlong west of the antient Neapolis; through which runs a small brook, on the banks of which there is a curious basso-relievo of a wolf, wrought upon white marble. From hence you proceed through a delightful avenue of spreading olives for the space of two leagues to Hamam-et, a small wealthy city, built upon a low promontory, and naturally well fortified: it is not many years since this became a place of note; here and there you may meet with some blocks of marble, and the town takes its name from the multitudes of wild pigeons that breed in the neighbouring cliffs, Hamam signifying a wild pigeon.

NEAR the sea, at the distance of two leagues, is the Menarah, a mausoleum of a cylindrical form, twenty yards in diameter; on each cornice of the pedestal is a small altar, with a man's name inscribed thereon, and underneath it is a vault: the Moors suppose that lamps were formerly affixed to these altars, as a guidance to mariners.

FERADEESE is but a few miles off; it was

an old Roman city, and the inhabitants, about a century since, were the best cruisers and the most experienced mariners in the country; but they left this place to settle at Hamam-et, as the commerce of the latter encreases in esteem. About the middle of the plain there is a round hillock, formed on the ruins of some old castle or village: it is called Sel-loome. Two leagues further off, to the seaward, there is a piece of marshy ground extending about a furlong; through which a large lake takes its course, in its progress to the sea. Here once stood a bridge with a causeway, which was very convenient, being continued quite through the morasses: it was in all probability the maritime boundary between the Zeugitania and Bizacium.

FIFTY miles from Utica is the city of Baja, the Vacca of Sallust, and still a place of great trade, and the greatest mart for corn in the whole kingdom of Tunis. It lies on the slope of a hill, is well watered, and boasts a citadel of no great strength. A fair, which is well frequented by the Arabs, is kept below in the plains of Bufdera, upon the banks of the river Mejer-

dah. Here we find a small pleasant town, inhabited by Andalusian Moors: it lies six leagues west of Tunis, and is called Tuburbo: in the neighbourhood of it are several groves of fruit trees; each species planted by itself. Thus, in one spot flourishes the citron, at some distance the peach, here the juicy nectarine tempts the taste, and there the mellow apricot presents itself to the hand; an orange grove on one hand delights the eye, while it diffuses through the air a most grateful odour; on the other, the blushing apple repays with interest the planter's labour.

THEY have all their distinct plantations, and none of them intermixed with any fruit of a different species. This regular variety was the work of a late Bey, called Mahomet; as was also a large dam, flung over the Majerdah, furnished with sluices and floodgates to raise the river to a convenient height, for the sake of refreshing the neighbouring plantations: but this was too useful a structure to meet with proper respect in Barbary; it is now running fast to ruin, and many parts of it actually destroyed by time, through neglect.

TEN leagues S. W. of Tunis, on the E. side of Majerdah, is an old triumphal arch, in which there is nothing remarkably beautiful; it was once adorned with niches and festoons that are now entirely defaced.

AT some leagues distance, on the extremity of a small chain of hills, are several mausolea, and the portico of a temple finely adorned with fluted columns; and on the pediment of this structure there is a large figure of an eagle with expanded wings. On the declivity of a hill, twenty-four leagues W. S. W. of Tunis, rises a rich strong town called Keff; it is well supplied with water, and had a good castle about nine years since; the best part of which was demolished in the civil wars. The only remains of antiquity at Tubernoke are a noble pair of stag's horns wrought in basso-relievo, and fixed over the gate of a large edifice. Tubernoke is built in form of a crescent, between the ridges of a mountain that are far from being unfruitful; it was called by Pliny, Oppidum Tuburnicense; and Tunis lies to the S. S. W. seven leagues off.

JERAADO is a ruined city that stood on

the decline of a hill twelve leagues S. W. of Tubernoke, and has some trifling remains of antiquity. There is a conspicuous mountain in this circuit, from whence there is a prospect of immense extent on every side; and all that space of ground which lies to the northward of the parallel of this mountain, reckoning from the foot of it, is called Africa: the name of it is Zow-ran or Zag-wan; and on the extremity of it is a small flourishing town, bearing the same denomination, famous for dying scarlet caps and bleaching linen, great quantities being brought hither from all parts of the kingdom for that purpose. Upon an old gate of this city there is a carving of a ram's head armed, with the word *auxilio* inscribed under it; from whence we may infer, that the place was sacred to Jupiter Ammon, whom Lucan distinguishes by the *tortis cornibus*.



C H A P. V.

*A description of the most remarkable places in
the winter circuit of Tunis.*

MANY authors who have written accounts of this part of the world entertain us with stories of its fertility, that appear upon inspection to be much exaggerated; for the soil is for the most part dry and sandy, and no where does it extend to any depth.

THIRTY miles from Hamam-et by land lies Herkla, the Heraclea of the lower empire: it is about a mile in circuit, and from the ruins appears rather to have been a place of importance than of extent, being built upon a promontory. Between Herkla and Hamam-et lies a gulph called the Gulph of Herkla. The navigation of it is pretty safe, being free from rocks and shallows, and affording the shelter of two or three good ports, in case of bad weather. The adjacent country is low and

marshy, consequently the air is liable to fogs; but our author does not think it unwholesome, though it seems to be the same with the Hadar or pestilentious city of the learned Scaliger. The next remarkable place upon the coast is Sufa, a very considerable city, where the inhabitants drive a great trade in oil and linens. The many granite pillars and other monuments of grandeur standing here to this day, shew it once to have been a place of some repute, and probably it was one of the towns that submitted to Cæsar in his march to Ruspina. Near at hand is a brisk transparent rivulet, watering a pleasant valley; this is a conveniency much wanted at Sahaleel, a village lying like Sufa upon an eminence, and supplied by a few wells with water, which is not only indifferent but very scarce. Five miles off, in a parrallel line, is a neat thriving city called Monasteer, bordering on a small cape, and not seeming to lay any claim to antiquity. It commands the bay of Lempta, which was probably the northern mound of the Cothon, great part of which still remains in spite of the delapidations of time and

the incroachments of the ocean. It was built like the walls of Tlem-fan, in frames, being a mixture of pebbles and mortar so firmly compacted as to be more durable than rock.

MEDEA, which also lies upon the coast, was once a place of some consequence. The area of the port is an hundred yards square: it lies within the very walls of the city, but is at present too shallow for vessels even of a trifling burthen. Here are some tumbling capitals and entablatures, which, though much defaced, speak the founder to have been more skilful than Mahdi the first patriarch of Kairwan, who is said by Leo to be the person. Somewhere hereabouts was the tower or country seat where Hannibal embarked after his flight from Carthage.

ELALIA is a large extent of ruins, situated on the borders of a fertile plain, which reaches from Salecto to within a few miles of She-ah. Peculiar to this place there are several large cisterns, with areas to receive rain water, which, from the workmanship and contrivance, appear to have been formed since the invasion of the Saracens.

CAPOUDIA is a strip of land stretching a great way into the sea; and upon the extreme point of it there is a high watch-tower, furrounded with ruins that very probably formerly belonged to a city built here by Justinian.

FROM this cape to the island of Jerba there is a succession of shallows or small flat islands, among which the inhabitants, wading a mile or two from shore, fix hurdles, and therein catch large quantities of fish, of which they make considerable advantage.

OUR author observes in this place, that, according to report, the water sometimes rises at Jerba, perhaps twice a day, a fathom or more above its usual height; but the wind blowing strong from the east, while he coasted along this shore, prevented him from ascertaining this report as truth.

ASFAX is a neat thriving city, walled round. The inhabitants are industrious, and labour under none of those oppressions felt in other parts of Barbary. The materials used in building it were brought ten miles off from the Thena of the an-

tients, once a famous maritime city, the country about which is dry and barren, without the refreshment of a single rivulet. There is a brook five miles to the S. W. called the river of Thainee.

AT Ma-harefs, which is a small village, there are the ruins of a castle, and some cisterns said to have been built by Sultan Ben Eglib, whose memory the people highly respect, as having done many good actions, and left behind him several publick marks of his beneficence, as, the castle of Ungha, built to secure some good wells, the adjacent country being a morass, and that at a greater distance only fit for pasturage, and great part of it entirely barren. Four leagues farther S. W. there are a great number of sepulchres at a place called Ellamaite; but they have no inscriptions, and very little beauty. At Gabs, a new city, rising from the remains of an old one bearing the same name, where there are many fine square granite pillars, no where else to be found in this quarter of the world, there are large plantations of palms and dates, but inferior every way to those of Jiceed; and the alhenna plant

is also cultivated in the gardens hereabouts, the leaves of which dried and powdered are a good commodity. As this plant requires to be well watered, the river Triton is brought hither for that purpose through many artificial canals. This river, now called the Gabs, was better known by the name of the Triton to the antients.

QUITTING the sea-coast, and taking an inland course, we arrived in a short time at Hadrah, which lies in a valley, and is watered by pleasant rivulets. From the vast extent of its ruins this place appears to have been one of the most considerable places in the country; for the walls of many houses, several altars and mausolea, together with the pavement of a whole street, are still to be seen. The mausolea are of various figures, some of them octagonal, supported by four, six, or eight columns; others square, with a nich or a balcony at top. The inscriptions with which they have been formerly graced have been defaced, either by time, or the malice of the Arabs. Among other ruins here is a beautiful triumphal arch erected in honour of Severus Pertinax, but no mention is

made of the person by whom it was constructed.

THE second remarkable place found here is Kair-wan, a populous city, walled in, and carrying on some trade: it lies in a barren plain. Without the walls, at half a furlong's distance, there is a capacious cistern to receive rain water; but the former either drying up or putrifying in the heat of summer, causes agues and other distempers. Here are some fine remains of antient architecture, and a mosque supported by five hundred granite pillars, said to be the most magnificent structure of that kind in Barbary, and deemed the most sacred. All the inscriptions being defaced, one cannot arrive at the antient name of this city.

AT Spaitla, the antient Sufetula, among other mouldering ruins, there is a grand triumphal arch of the Corinthian order, consisting of one large arch, and two smaller ones on each side; and from it all the way to the city there is a black stone pavement, guarded on each side by a parapet wall for the more convenient passage of him who triumphed: at the end of the

pavement you pass through a spacious Corinthian portico into a noble area, where you find three ruined temples, with many pediments and entablatures remaining perfect and entire; but the roofs and porticos being quite destroyed, fronting the portico of each there is a nich, behind which nich in the middle fane is a small chamber, which was perhaps used as a vestry. Spaitla is pleasantly situated upon a rising-ground, shaded with juniper trees, and watered on the N. E. by a little rivulet.

EIGHT leagues to the westward, at Turzo or Truzza, there are several vaulted chambers perpetually filled with sulphureous steams, much frequented by the Arabs for the sake of sweating. The river Meegaleel waters the neighbouring country, and the Arabs contrive to make it overflow many large tracts of land, which are seldom or never refreshed by rain. On the banks of this river, a few miles to the south of Truzza, are the ruins of a large city.

SIX leagues to the S. W. of Spaitla, on a precipice that overhangs the winding ri-

ver Derb, there is a large arch of Attic structure, supported by gothic pillars, and adorned with designs in the Corinthian fashion; it was built by Manlius Fælix: and in the plain below there are many mausolea, upon one of which there is an inscription in hexameters and pentameters; but we shall not copy them here, being no way remarkable. There are many other towns and villages scattered round the country, which is open and champaign, and olive plantations interspersed up and down render them extremely delightful.

AT Jemme, the Tiftra of Cæsar, which lies some leagues S. S. W. of Sur-seff, are many antiquities, as, altars with defaced inscriptions, a variety of columns, and a spacious amphitheatre; but Mahomet Bey blew up four of the arches from top to bottom, in a late revolt of the Arabs, who made use of it as a fortress; otherwise, as to the outside at least, nothing could be more entire and beautiful. Within, the platform of the seats, with their galleries and vomitoria leading up to them, are still remaining. The arena is nearly circular, and in the centre of it there is a deep well

of hewn stone, where the pillar that supported the awning may be supposed to have been fixed. By comparing this with our structures at Spaitla, Hydrah, &c. it seems to have been built about the time of the Antonines, agreeing exactly in proportion and workmanship with the structures of that age: and as the elder Gordian was proclaimed emperor in this city, it is not improbable but out of gratitude to the place where he received the diadem, he might have founded a city. Upon one of the medals of the younger Gordian we have an amphitheatre, not hitherto accounted for by the medalists: it may be too peremptory perhaps to fix it upon Tifdra.

AT Rugga, the antient Caraga, two leagues S. S. E. of Jemme, is a large cistern, which formerly supplied the whole city with water, and the roof of it is supported by rows of massy pillars.

FERRE-NAH, which from its lonely situation, and other circumstances, was probably the Thala of the antients, lies in the same parallel with Rugga, and was once the largest city of Bizacium; though all

the remains of its antient grandeur consist in a few granite and other pillars, which, by some extraordinary chance or benevolence of the Arabs, are standing upon their pedestals. It hath been exceedingly well watered, for, besides a plentiful brook that runs under the walls, there have been several wells within the city, each of them furrounded with a corridore, and vaulted over with a cupola. This, and a good air, are the only benefits and conveniencies that Ferre-nah can urge in favour of its situation; for, if we except a small extent of ground to the southward, which the inhabitants cultivate, by refreshing it at proper times with the rivulet, all the rest of this circumjacent country is dry, barren, and inhospitable; the prospect likewise (which is the only one it enjoys) to the westward, terminateth upon some naked precipices; or else, where the eye hath liberty to wander through some narrow cliff or valley, we are entertained with no other view than of a desert scorched up with perpetual drought, and glowing with the sun-beams. Gafsa, the antient Capfa, another of the strong cities of Jugurtha,

lies twelve leagues off. It is built in a solitary situation, on a rising-ground, in the midst of mountains: the prospect about it is however sometimes enlivened by pistachias, olives, palm, and other fruits, which are refreshed by a stream collected from two fountains, the one in the centre of the city, and the other in the citadel: the former is still walled round, and discharges itself into a large basin contrived for bathing. These two fountains uniting form a stream, which the inhabitants partition out among their plantations. There are many altars and granite pillars among the walls of the houses and the citadel, which, when in their proper places, must have been great ornaments to the place; but the inscriptions upon them are for the most part defaced.

THE villages of El Jereed, or the Dry country, which is the next quarter whereon we enter, are built of mud walls, with rafters of palm: among them may be sometimes found granite pillars, and here and there a Roman inscription. They have a general trade in dates, which they exchange for wheat, barley, linen, and other

commodities, brought from all contiguous parts. The dates of Tozer are most esteemed, and they are exported to Æthiopia, where they are exchanged for black slaves, two or three quintals being the purchase of a slave. The villages hereabouts are divided by a lake, and pointed out by a number of trunks of palm trees, fixed at convenient distances for the direction of caravans; hence is this road called the lake of Marks. Were it not for these sure guides, the quicksands and chasms would make the passage extremely difficult, it being from east to west twenty leagues long, and in some places six leagues broad. In this lake are many dry spots or islands, one of which is large, and covered with dates; these, according to a tradition among the Arabs, sprung from the stones of that fruit which an Egyptian army brought hither with them, and planted for the sake of nourishment.

FROM Maggs to El-hammah the distance is thirty miles, over an uncomfortable desert, without either wood or water. El-hammah is one of the Tunisian frontier towns: it is antient, having a small castle,

and a garrison, and takes its name from the hot baths for which it is remarkable. They are poorly thatched; the basins are for the most part sheltered from the weather by an indifferent thatch, and twelve feet square, four deep, with stone benches running round them for bathers to repose on. One of them is called the Bath of Lepers, and a neighbouring lake the Lake of Lepers. The waters of these fountains form a small stream, that rolls eastward towards the lake of Marks, and loses itself at a few miles distance in the sand.

It is needless and uninteresting to detain the reader with the various hard names whereby the different clans of Arabs inhabiting this tract of land are distinguished; wherefore we shall proceed to take a view of the accommodation travellers must expect to meet in this country, according to our author; and then give a sketch of his general observations.



C H A P. VI.

*Of the manner of travelling in the territories
of Barbary.*

IN the inland towns and villages of Barbary there is a house generally set apart for the reception of strangers, with a proper officer called the Mahabak, whose business it is to attend them: here persons are lodged and entertained for one night, in the best manner the place can afford, at the expence of the community.

EXCEPT at Tripoli, Algiers, Alexandria, and some few places besides, there are no Khans or houses of entertainment throughout the whole country, at least that our author met with; and to have furnished themselves with tents would have been both cumbersome and expensive, besides the suspicion it might have raised in the Arabs that they were persons of rank and fortune, consequently a booty too rich and tempting to be suffered to escape. Some

unfortunate gentlemen, who were engaged not many years ago in an embassy to Abyssinia, found this assertion to be true, at the expence of their lives. Thus, in the course of their travelling, when Dr. Shaw and his company did not fall in with the hovels of the Kabyles, or the encampments of the Arabs, they had nothing to protect them from the heat of the day, or the cold of the night, unless they met with some accidental grove of trees, the shelf of a rock, or sometimes, by good fortune, a grotto.

THEIR beasts were the greatest sufferers, though they were always the first care of our travellers, who gathered stubble, grass, boughs of trees, and such like provender for them, before they sat down themselves to examine into what fragments of former meals they had reserved for themselves. In travelling from Cairo to Mount Sinai, the heavens were every night their only covering; a carpet spread upon the sand their bed, and a bundle of foul cloaths their pillow. Horses or mules require too much water to be employed in these deserts; camels were used in their stead, and

these were set round them in a circle, with their faces outward, and their respective loads and saddles placed behind them.

IN this situation they served as so many guards, being watchful, and awaking with the least noise. As there was no chance of meeting in these long and dreary deserts with the least hospitality or entertainment, they were necessitated to carry along with them all things necessary for so tedious a journey. In the first place then they provided a sufficient quantity of goats' skins, which were filled with water every four or five days, or as often as they found it. Barley, with a few beans intermixed, or else the flour of one or other of them, made into balls, was the provender laid in for their beasts; they provided for themselves wheaten-flour, biscuit, honey, oil, vinegar, olives, lintel, potted flesh, and such things as would keep during two months, the space commonly taken up in completing this journey. Nor should the wooden basin or copper pot be forgotten, that made up the kitchen furniture; the latter whereof was the necessary utensil for cooking the provision; the other for ser-

ving it up, or kneading unleavened cakes: their fuel was the camels dung that was left by some preceding caravan; and this, after being exposed a day or two in the sun, catches fire like touchwood, and burns as bright as charcoal. No sooner was their food prepared, than one of the Arabs, after having placed himself upon the highest station he could find, invited three times, with a loud voice, all his brethren, the sons of the faithful, to partake; tho' none of them were in view, or perhaps within a hundred miles. This custom, however, they maintain as a token of their great benevolence, as it would be of their hospitality likewise, if they had an opportunity to shew it. When travellers are so fortunate in Barbary, as to find out the encampments of the Arabs, they are entertained, for one night, at free cost: the Arabs, either by long custom, the particular tenor of their lands, or perhaps from fear or compulsion, being obliged to give the Spahees, and those who are with them, the Mounah, (as they call it) which is a sufficient quantity of provision for themselves and their horses; besides a bowl of

milk, and a basket of figs, raisins, dates, or other dried fruit, which is always presented to them upon their arrival: the master of the tent, where they set up, brings from his flock, a kid or a goat, a lamb or a sheep; half of which is immediately served up with a Cuscasou; the rest is usually reserved for their breakfast or dinner.

HOWEVER, the tents of these roving herdsmen, though they may shelter from the weather, are notwithstanding attended with their inconveniencies; for the cold and the dews, whereto people are every night exposed, in the deserts of Arabia, do not incommode half so much as the vermin and insects of all kinds, which eternally molest: for besides fleas and lice, that swarm, the apprehension of being bitten or stung by the scorpion, viper, or venomous spider, rarely fails in some parts of these countries, to interrupt the repose that is so grateful and necessary to a weary traveller. Upon sight indeed of one or other of these venomous beasts, a Thaleb or writer, who happened to be one of the Spahees, after he had muttered a few words, used to exhort every body to take courage, and not

be afraid of such creatures, he having made them tame and harmless by his charms and enchantments. Strangers are not less offended by the kids, calves, and other young cattle, which being tied up every night under the eaves of the tents, to prevent them from sucking their dams, are every moment breaking loose, the cords that are used upon those occasions being only made of loosely spun yarn. When strangers are at any time entertained in a courteous manner, for the Arabs will sometimes part with nothing until it be extorted by force, the host ~~thinks~~ himself sufficiently requited, if presented with a knife, a couple of flints, or a small quantity of English gunpowder; which, being much stronger than that of Arabia, is held in greater esteem, and kept only for priming fire-arms; as for the Lallah, or hostess, she would think herself well paid, and return a thousand thanks for a skean of thread, a large needle, or a pair of scissars; all of them great rarities, and very engaging presents with these people.

DURING the excessive heats of the summer, and at some other times when there was room to fear an attack from free-boot-

ing Arabs, our author and his people travelled in the night; which having no eyes, according to the Arabian proverb, few of them then dare venture to ramble.

FROM Suez to Mount Sinai there is little or no risque of being either robbed or insulted, provided you keep up with the caravan; but a neglect of this kind may expose one to great danger.

IN the Holy Land and upon the isthmus betwixt Egypt and the Red-sea, your conductors cannot be too numerous, whole clans of free-booters, from fifty to five hundred, being sometimes looking out for prey. This was the case of a caravan, wherewith Dr. Shaw travelled, (A. D. 1722) in going from Ramah to Jerusalem, when a strong party of Turkish foldiers, with the mosolem, or general at the head of them, were scarcely able to afford protection against the repeated insults and ravages of these villains. But in Barbary, where the Arabs are under more subjection, there is no need of being guarded by more than three Spahees, and a servant, all well armed. Sometimes, indeed, their numbers are obliged to be augmented, par-

ticularly among the independent Arabs, upon the frontiers of the neighbouring kingdoms, or where two contiguous clans are at variance. These Harammes, as the free-booters are usually called, are certainly what the Europeans mean by wild Arabs; there being no such name peculiar to any one body of these people; and they being all blessed with the same pious inclinations to rob, strip, plunder, and murder even one another, when they miss of strangers. However, the best way to escape them, is either to assume the habit of the country, or dress like a Spahee; for the Arabs are very jealous and inquisitive, suspecting all strangers to be spies sent to survey their lands, which at one time or other, as they have been taught to fear, are to be restored to the Christians.

THE horses and camels of these countries keep generally one constant pace; the latter go at the rate of two miles and a half, the other of three geographical miles in an hour. Sixty of which, according to Dr. Shaw's calculation, make one degree of a great circle. The ground over which they travel is first of all computed by hours,

and then reduced into miles. Every evening, therefore, as soon as they arrive at their quarters, they are wont to examine how many hours, and in what direction they have travelled that day, making proper allowances for the several windings and occasional deviations out of the direct road.



C H A P. VII.

Of the state of the sciences in Barbary; the dress of the people; their division of their hours, and employment; of their various diversions.

HAVING run over our author's description of Barbary, and the manner of evading the dangers that may fall out in travelling through it, we shall proceed to take a short view of the learning, manners, government, climate, and productions. The sciences are in this country at a very low ebb; physic, philosophy, and the mathematics, for all which it was once remarkable, are now so lost to it,

that scarcely the traces of them are remaining. Repose and liberty, the fosterer of arts, is fled; frightened from the clime by the oppressions of the Turks, and unsettled vagabond life of the Moors; and the former of these people often express themselves surprized that Christians should expend their time, and even their money, in study and speculation, from whence they cannot collect any substantial profit.

THEIR children are sent to school at the age of six years, and taught to read, get by heart, and write at the rate of a penny a week; each boy is furnished with a thin square board, daubed over with whiting, on which he inscribes his letters, which may be rubbed out at pleasure; for they are strangers to the use of paper: being instructed in the Khoran, they are initiated very carefully in the several mysteries of their religion, and this is for the most part all their learning. The lad who excels most at school, is, in order to encourage him, escorted through the streets by his fellow scholars huzzaing round, he being finely dressed and mounted upon a white horse, while his friends and relations load

him with presents: after continuing about three years at school, they are either put to trades, or enlisted amongst the soldiery, where they soon forget all they have learned.

OUR author tells us, that he made it his business, during his stay at Algiers, to cultivate an acquaintance with such of their people as had any reputation for learning: among whom he found their best astronomer had scarcely sufficient knowledge to project a sun-dial, and the skill of their most experienced chymist did not extend beyond the distilling of rose-water. Their geography was coarse, blundering and imperfect, and after pricking a chart, and making out the eight principal points of the compass, they understood nothing of navigation. Their physicians chiefly studied the Spanish edition of Dioscorides, and of this they were rather acquainted with the cuts than the text; their musicians, whether they play alone or in concert, depend much upon custom and memory; and we may venture to affirm of these people, that they have strong intellects, are ready witted, and nature has in general

given them genius; but to improve them, they want time, application, and encouragement.

BEING for the most part predestinarians, the Mahometans pay little regard to physic, and either use charms and incantations, or leave the disorder to contend with nature. Some of them encourage inoculation for the small-pox; and for the rheumatism, they cauterise the part affected. The Arabs pour boiling hot fresh butter into all simple and gun-shot wounds, and this remedy sometimes succeeds; an application of the prickly pear roasted in the ashes, is good in suppurations; as are the leaves of alhenna mixed with warm water, in cases of bruises, slight wounds, and inflammations. These leaves not only tinge the skin with yellow, but passing immediately thro' the pores, communicate the same colour to the urine of the patient. They have very few compounded medicines; however, there is a mixture of myrtle, aloes, and myrtle-berries, which they administer often happily in time of pestilence.

IN some places they have calendars left them by their ancestors, which are rather

esteemed curious than useful, although the sun's place, the semidiurnal and nocturnal arch, the length of the twilight, and the hours of prayer, are beautifully inserted in their proper columns, and calculated to a moment. Time is, in these countries, measured by hour-glasses, for the Mahometans have a strong aversion to clocks and bells; but they much oftener judge of the day by the public cryers, who summon them to prayer. They are unacquainted either with algebra, or numeral arithmetic, although their forefathers furnished us with the characters of the one, and with the name, at least, of the other. Yet they have a way of reckoning, by putting their hands into each others sleeves, and touching one another with a certain joint or finger so expressively, that without moving the lips, or letting any body present into the secret, they can conclude bargains of the most considerable value. Their Thalebs, or wise men, are, however, so skilled in figures, if you believe their own report, that by certain combinations of numbers, they can compass the most wonderful things: for example, say they, one of them, called the

bleſſed amulet, hung round the neck, procures the favour of princes, intimidates an enemy, inſpires with courage, and protects the wearer from every ſort of danger.

THE Arabs wear a looſe diſorderly kind of dreſs, called a hyke, which is five or fix yards long, and not leſs broad; this they wrap round them, and are forced to gird it with a ſaſh; at night it ſerves them for a bed and coverlid. Their upper garment, which they name the burnooſe, is generally wove in one piece; it has a cap for the head, is tight about the neck, and grows wide towards the bottom: this garment is only uſed in cold or rainy weather. Under the burnooſe and hyke, ſome of them wear a long cloſe-bodied waſtcoat without ſleeves; their girdles are of worſted, and in them they ſtick their poinards, ſecretaries their inkhorns, and other people the badge of their calling. Different claſſes of people both among the Moors and Arabs are diſtinguiſhed by various foldings of the turban, which is a narrow piece of muſlin, ſilk or linen, wound about the bottom of a ſcarlet cloth cap, worn by al-

most all the richer sort of Mahometans, and often shining with jewels.

It is customary for the Turks and Moors to wear linen underneath their tunics or close waistcoats; but the Arabs in general have nothing but woolen. There is a ceremony, indeed, in some places, which obliges both the bride and bridegroom to wear a shirt at the celebration of their nuptials: but then, through some unaccountable piece of superstition, they are not afterwards to wash or put it off, as long as it lasts. The sleeves of those worn by the men, are wide and open, without any folds at the wrist; whilst those of the women are made with gauze and different coloured ribbands, interchangeably sown together; neither are the wandering Arabs accustomed to wear drawers, a habit in which the citizens of both sexes appear, especially when they go abroad or receive visits. The virgins are distinguished from the matrons, in having their drawers made of needle-work, striped silk, or linen: but when the women are at home or in private, they lay aside their hykes, and sometimes their tunics, and in-

stead of their drawers, bind only a towel about their loins.

IT is farther to be observed of the Moorish women, that when they appear in public, they always fold themselves up so closely in their hykes, that there is very little to be seen of their faces: but in the summer months, when they retire to their country seats, they walk abroad with less caution, only letting their veils fall upon the approach of a stranger.

THEY affect to have their hair hang down to the ground, or they gather it into one lock upon the hinder part of their head, binding and plaiting it with ribbands; when nature hath been less liberal, the defect is to be supplied by artificial added to the natural locks. Some commentators have imagined that Absalom's hair, which was sold for two hundred shekels, was purchased for this use. Having plaited up the hair, they proceed to dress their heads, by tying close together above the lock, the several corners of a triangular piece of linen, wrought with a needle into a variety of figures. Persons of better fashion wear over this a farmah, as they call it, which

is of much the same shape, but made of thin flexible plates of gold or silver variously cut through, and engraved in imitation of lace. A handkerchief of crape, gauze, silk, or painted linen bound round the *farmah*, and falling afterwards carelessly upon the hair, completes the head-tire of the Moorish ladies; yet they never think themselves completely dressed, till they have tinged the hair and edges of their eye-lids with powder of lead ore. This operation is performed by dipping first into the powder, a small wooden bodkin of the thickness of a quill; and then drawing it through the eye-lids over the ball of the eye; the sooty colour thus communicated to the eyes, is thought to add wonderful grace to the features of persons of all complexions. The practice of it is, no doubt, very antient; for we read in some authentic historians, that it was used as well by the Greeks and Romans as the eastern nations.

BOTH Turks and Moors rise early, go to their devotions at day-break, then apply to their respective callings till ten o'clock, when they dine, mind business till four, then attend prayers again, sup at

fun-set, and go to bed about the close of day: they never begin or conclude any affair without thanking God. Some of the graver sort of people, who have no constant employment, spend the day either in conversing with one another at the barbers shops, or at the coffee-house; whilst the younger sort, whether disposed of in civil or military life, attend their concubines with wine and musick into the fields, or else make themselves merry at a tavern. Though this practice is expressly prohibited by their religion, yet the necessity of the times, and uncontrollable passions of lusty youth, oblige the government to dispense with the breach.

THE Arab seldom follows any regular trade or employment; his life is one continual round of idleness or diversion. When no pastime calls him abroad, he loiters at home, smokes his pipe, or stretches himself under the friendly shade of some neighbouring tree. He has no relish for domestic pleasure, and is rarely known to converse with his wife, or play with his children. He values nothing so much as his horse, being seldom so well pleased as when

he is far from home, riding and hunting. The Arabs, and indeed all the people of the east, are excellent at this exercise; for there are few of them who cannot quickly hunt down a wild boar. We find upon one of the medalions of Constantine's arch, a very beautiful representation of this sport, as it is performed, to this day, by the Arabs; who after they have roused the beast from his retirement, and pursued it into some adjacent plain, endeavour there, by frequent overtaking and turning, to tire and perplex it; then watching an opportunity, either transfix it with their lances from some distance, or else, coming close by its side, fix their spears in its body.

At the hunting of the lion, the inhabitants of a whole district are summoned to appear; who, forming themselves first into a circle, enclose a large space of ground, of three, four or five miles compass; then the footmen advancing, first, rush into the thickets, with their dogs and spears, to rouse their game; whilst the horsemen, keeping a little behind, are always ready to charge upon the first fall of the beast. In this manner they proceed, still contract-

ing their circle, till they at last either close together, or meet with game to diversify them.

THE accidental pastime, upon these occasions, is sometimes very great; for the several different sorts of animals, such as hares, jackalls, hyænas, &c. that lye within the compass, being driven together, afford variety of excellent diversion. It is a common observation here, that when the lion perceives himself in danger, he will seize directly upon the person nearest him, and rather than quit his hold, suffer himself to be cut to pieces.

HAWKING is one of the principal diversions among the Arabs and gentry of the kingdom of Tunis; and their woods abound with many beautiful species of hawks and falcons. Those who delight in fowling do not spring the game with dogs, but shade themselves with a piece of painted canvas stretched upon two reeds, in the shape of a door, and walk thus covered through the several breaks and avenues, where they expect to find game. In this canvas there are several holes for the fowler to look through and observe what pas-

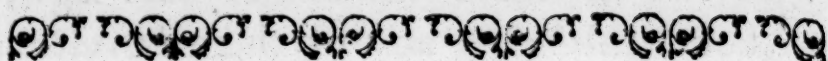
ses before him. It is remarkable, that the partridge, and other gregarious birds, will, upon the approach of the canvas, covey together, though they were before at some distance from each other; and the woodcock, the quail, and such birds, likewise, as do not commonly feed in flocks, will upon sight of it, stand still and look astonished, thus giving the sportsman an opportunity of coming very near them, when resting his shade upon the ground, and directing the muzzle of his piece thro' one of the holes, he knocks down sometimes a whole covey at a time.

THE Arabs have another, and more laborious method of catching partridges: for observing that after these birds have been hastily sprung twice or thrice, they become languid and fatigued; they immediately run in upon them and knock them down.

WITH regard to the manners and customs of the Bedoweens, or wandering Arabs, it is to be observed that they retain a great many of those we read of in sacred as well as prophane history; being, if we except their religion, the same people they

were two or three thousand years ago; without embracing any of these novelties in dress or behaviour, which have had so many periods and revolutions in the Moorish and Turkish cities. Upon meeting one another, they still use the primitive salutation of, *Peace be unto you*. Before the Mahometan conquests, the expression was, *God prolong your life*. The inferiors, out of deference and respect, kiss the feet, knees, or garments of their superiors; whilst the children or kinsfolks pay the same respect to the heads of their parents and aged relations. The posture they observe in giving one another the assemah, or salute, is to lay their right hand upon their breast, whilst others who are more intimately acquainted, or of equal age and dignity, mutually kiss the hand, head, or shoulder of each other.

At the feast of their Byram and other great solemnities, the wife compliments her husband by kissing his hand.



C H A P. VIII.

Of the civilities paid by these people to their guests; of their customs in general; their superstition.

IT is no disgrace here for persons of the highest characters to busy themselves in what we should reckon menial employments; nor is the greatest prince of these countries ashamed to play the drover or butcher, by bringing a lamb from his herd and killing it; whilst the princess prepares her fire and kettle to dress it. The custom that still continues of walking barefoot, or only with sandals, require the antient compliments of bringing water to a stranger, upon his arrival, to wash his feet: the person who presents himself the first to do this office, and to give the welcome, is the master of the family, who always distinguishes himself by being the most officious; and who, after his entertainment is prepared, thinks it a shame to sit down with his guests, but will stand up all the time

and wait upon them. Yet the outward behaviour of the Arab frequently gives the lie to his inward temper and inclination; for he is naturally thievish and treacherous; and it happens not seldom, that these very persons are overtaken and pillaged in the morning, who were entertained the night before with every mark of friendship and hospitality. Neither are they to be accused for plundering strangers only, for from their attacking almost every person whom they find unarmed and defenceless, arise those many implacable and hereditary animosities which continually subsist among them.

HOWEVER, it should be mentioned, to the honour of the western Moors, that they still continue to carry on a trade with some barbarous nations bordering upon the river Niger, without seeing the persons they trade with, or without having once broke through that original charter of commerce, which from time immemorial has been settled between them. The method is this: at a certain time of the year they make this journey in a numerous caravan, carrying along with them several

strings of coral and glass beads, bracelets of horn, knives, scissars, and such like trinkets. When they arrive at the place appointed, which is on a certain day of the moon, they find in the evening several different heaps of gold-dust lying at a small distance from each other; against which the Moors place so many of their trinkets as they judge them worth, and then retire. If the Nigritians, the next morning, approve of the bargain, they take up the trinkets, and leave the gold, or else make some deductions from the gold-dust, &c. And in this manner they transact their exchange, without the least instance of dishonesty.

THE custom which the Nofamones had formerly of plighting their troth, by drinking out of each other's cap, is at this time the only ceremony used by the Algerines in their marriages; but the contract is to be first of all agreed upon betwixt the parents, wherein express mention is made, not only of the saddock or bride's jointure, but likewise of the several changes of raiment, the quantity of jewels, and number of slaves, wherewith she is to be served

when she first waits upon her husband. The parties never see one another till the marriage is to be consummated; at which time the relations being withdrawn, the bridegroom first unveils, and then undresses his bride.

UPON forfeiture of the saddock, the husband can put away his wife, but cannot take her again, notwithstanding the strongest solicitations are made in his favour, till she has been married and bedded to another man.

THE civility and respect which the politer nations of Europe pay to the weaker sex, are looked upon here as extravagancies, and so many infringements of that law of nature which assigns to man the pre-eminence. So that the matrons are considered only as servants of better fashion, whilst the lazy husbands wander about, doing nothing; and the youth of both sexes attend the flocks, are all the day employed at the loom, at the mill, or else in making cuscaflowe, &c. and as it draws towards night, they go out to draw water, being to that end furnished with a pitcher or a goat's skin; with which, and

perhaps a couple of young children flung at their back, the women will trudge two or three miles. Yet, in the midst of all these labours, neither the country nor city ladies will lay aside any of their ornaments; and though they sweat under their loads, you will find them encumbered with bracelets, ear-rings, shackles, jewels bobbing at the nose, and their eyes nicely penciled. So prevalent is custom, even in Barbary, and so very zealous are people to appear in what they call the mode and fashion.

MOST of the Moorish women would be reckoned beauties, even in Great-Britain; as their children certainly have the finest complexions of any nation whatsoever: the boys indeed, by wearing only the tiara, are exposed so much to the sun, that they quickly attain the swarthiness of the Arabs; but the girls keeping more at home, preserve their beauty till they are thirty, at which age they are usually past child-bearing. It sometimes happens that they are mothers at eleven, and a grand-mother at two and twenty: and as their lives are usually of the same length with those of the Europeans, there have not been in-

stances wanting among them, of some who have lived to see many generations sprung from their own loins.

AT all the principal entertainments, and by way of shewing satisfaction, the women welcome the arrival of a guest, by squalling out, Loo, loo, several times together. At their funerals, also, they repeat the same noise, making it only more deep and hollow, and ending each period with a deep sigh. There are several women to be hired, upon these melancholy occasions, who, like the mourning women of old, are mistresses of very affecting expressions; and perform their parts with such proper gestures and commotions, that they rarely fail to work up their auditors into some extraordinary pitch of thoughtfulness and forrow.

No people in the world are so much addicted to superstition as the Arabs, or even as the Mahometans in general. They hang about their children's necks the figure of an open hand, as protection against an evil eye; and by way of a guard against enchantments, both the Turks and Moors paint it upon their ships and houses. They

reckon five an unlucky number; and *five in your eyes*, is with them an evil imprecation. They carry always about with them a paragraph of the Koran, which they place upon their breasts, or sew under their caps, to prevent fascination and witchcraft, and to secure themselves from sickness and misfortunes.

THE virtues of these charms and scrolls are supposed, likewise, to be so far universal, that they suspend them upon the necks of their cattle, horses, and other beasts of burthen to protect them.

THEY place great faith and confidence in magicians and forcerers; and upon some extraordinary occasions, particularly in a lingering distemper, they use many superstitious ceremonies; such as sacrificing a cock, a sheep, or a goat, and burying the whole carcass under ground, or by drinking part of the blood, or else by burning or scattering the feathers. It is a prevailing opinion here, that many diseases proceed from some offence or other committed against the *jenounæ*, a sort of creatures placed, by the Mahometants, betwixt angels and devils; and which, like the

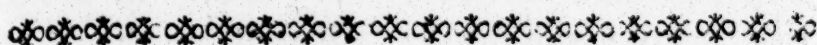
fairies of our forefathers, are supposed to frequent shades and fountains, and to assume the bodies of toads, worms, and other like animals, which are always in the way of being trodden upon and hurted; and any person who chances to be maimed or sickly, fancies that he has assuredly injured one or other of these beings. To appease the wrath of which, these rites are performed particularly on a Wednesday; and to preside over them is the province of the weaker sex, the victim being adapted in value either to the quality of the patient, or the stubborn nature of his disorder.

THE Mahometans have a great veneration for their Marabbutts, who are generally persons of rigid and austere life, continually employing themselves either in counting over their beads, or else in meditation and prayer. This saintship goes by succession, and the son is entitled to the same reverence and esteem with the father; provided he can keep up equal gravity and decorum. Some of them, also, have the reputation of being blessed with heavenly visions, and conversing with the God-

head, whilst others, who are supposed to work miracles, pretend they are endowed with gifts which Mahomet himself durst not pretend to.

OUR author was told by Seedy Mustafa, the Kaleefa of the western province, in the presence of a number of Arabian Shekho, who vouched for the same fact, that a Marabbut, near at hand, had a solid iron bar, which, upon command, would yield an explosion, equal in noise and execution to that of a cannon; and that once the whole Algerine army, upon demanding too exorbitant a tax from the Arabs under his protection, were put to flight by the miracle. Yet, notwithstanding the frequency, as they pretend, of this experiment, the merit urged, which Dr. Shaw said would accrue from convincing a Christian of its being true, and the solicitations of the whole company, the Marabbut had too much policy to hazard his reputation by compliance. At Seteef, our author once saw a Marabbut famous for vomiting fire; but it was plain to any one, who closely attended his performance, that it was all trick; and that the flames and

smoke that furrounded him, arose from some tow and flax, which he contrived to set on fire under his burnoose, in which he hid himself, under pretence of receiving the inspiration.



C H A P. IX.

Of the government, strength, and alliances of Algiers.

WE shall in this chapter consider the force, laws, revenues, government, alliances, and courts of judicature in Algiers; beginning with their government, which differs from that of Tunis, and consists of the dey, who is to be considered as the stadtholder, and of a douwanne, or common-council. The douwanne is principally composed of thirty Yiah bashaws, though the musti, the cadi, and the whole soldiery, are sometimes called upon to assist. All affairs of moment ought to be agreed upon by this assembly, before they pass into laws, and before the dey is allowed to put them into execution.

For some years past this body has been poorly respected, though always formally convened; but then it is only to consent, with formality, to such propositions as have been beforehand concerted, betwixt the dey and his favourites: so that, in effect, the whole power is lodged in the Dey, who is chosen out of the army; the most inferior member of which may aspire to that dignity, and every courageous soldier may be considered as the heir apparent to the throne; nor is he under any necessity of waiting till sickness or old age remove the present incumbent: it is enough that he is able to protect himself with the same cymeter which he hath had the boldness to sheath in the bowels of his predecessor. If he has resolution to attempt the throne, he can scarcely fail to mount it.

THE whole force of Algiers, in Turks, &c. is about six thousand five hundred men; two thousand of whom are excused through age from doing duty, one thousand are constantly employed in relieving annually their garrisons, whilst the rest are either dispersed among the cruisers,

or contribute to make up the three flying camps, which are sent out every summer under the command of the provincial vice-roys. To the Turkish troops, we may join about two thousand Moorish horse, which are kept in constant pay; but being all of them hereditary enemies to the Turks, these are seldom considered as the real safeguard and defence of the government. To make up the deficiencies in the army, their cruising vessels are sent out every five or six years to the Levant for recruits, which are generally made up of shepherds, outlaws, and people of the meanest condition.

MAHOMET Bashaw, who was at this time Dey of Algiers, was not ashamed to own his extraction; for, in a dispute which he once had with a certain deputy-consul, 'my mother,' said he, 'sold sheeps feet, and my father neats tongues; but they would have blushed to have exposed to sale so worthless a tongue as yours;' yet these recruits, after they have been a little instructed by their fellow-foldiers, have got caps to their heads, shoes to their feet, and knives in their girdles, begin to assume airs of grandeur, expect to be saluted with

the title of your grace; and look upon the most considerable citizens as their slaves, and the consuls of Christian nations as their footmen.

THE ordinary distribution of justice is vested, as in all Turkish governments, in the cady; an officer, who, for the most part, has had his education in the seminaries of Grand Cairo, where it is said, that the Roman codes and pandects, translated into the Arabic tongue, are taught and explained as in the universities of Europe. The cady is obliged to attend at the court of justice once or twice a day, to hear and determine the several suits and complaints that are brought before him: but as bribery is too often charged upon him, all affairs of moment are laid before the Dey; and, in case of his being absent, or otherwise employed, they are heard by the treasurer, master of the horse, and other principal officers of the regency, who sit constantly in the gate of the palace for that purpose. At all these tribunals the cause is quickly decided, nothing more being required than the proof of what is alleged; so that a matter of debt, trespass,

or of the highest crimes, will be finally decided, and the sentence executed in less than half an hour. In cases of debt, the debtor is usually detained in prison, till the bailiff seizes upon and sells his effects; if the sale amounts to more than the debt, then the overplus is returned to the prisoner; if it falls short, he is notwithstanding released, and no future demands are made upon him.

SLIGHT offences are punished with the bastinado; that is, the offender is condemned to receive a certain number of strokes upon his buttocks, or the soles of his feet, with sticks of the thickness of one's little finger: but in greater crimes, particularly for unnatural lust, not only the parts already mentioned, but the abdominal muscles are to be chastised: a punishment generally attended with death. A man who defaces the current coin of the nation, is condemned to lose his hand, according to the old Egyptian punishment. Jew or Christian subjects guilty of murder, or any other capital crime, are burned alive without the gates of the city; but the Moors and Arabs are either impaled for

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or of the highest crimes, will be finally decided, and the sentence executed in less than half an hour. In cases of debt, the debtor is usually detained in prison, till the bailiff seizes upon and sells his effects; if the sale amounts to more than the debt, then the overplus is returned to the prisoner; if it falls short, he is notwithstanding released, and no future demands are made upon him.

SLIGHT offences are punished with the bastinado; that is, the offender is condemned to receive a certain number of strokes upon his buttocks, or the soles of his feet, with sticks of the thickness of one's little finger: but in greater crimes, particularly for unnatural lust, not only the parts already mentioned, but the abdominal muscles are to be chastised: a punishment generally attended with death. A man who defaces the current coin of the nation, is condemned to lose his hand, according to the old Egyptian punishment. Jew or Christian subjects guilty of murder, or any other capital crime, are burned alive without the gates of the city; but the Moors and Arabs are either impaled for

the same crime, hung up by the neck over the battlements of the city, or else thrown upon the hooks that are fixed in the walls below, where sometimes they endure the most exquisite agonies, for perhaps thirty or forty hours, before they expire.

THE Turks are not punished in public, like other offenders; but, out of respect to their characters, are sent to the house of the Aga, where, according to the quality of the misdemeanour, they are bastinadoed or strangled. Out of regard likewise to the female sex, when women offend, they are not exposed to the populace, but sent to some private house of correction; or, if the crime is capital, they are tied up in sacks, and thrown into the sea. The western Moors still use the barbarous punishment of sawing criminals asunder; for which purpose they prepare two boards, of the same length and breadth with those of the unfortunate delinquent, and having tied him betwixt them, they proceed to the execution, by beginning at his head. Kardinash, a person of the first rank, who had formerly been ambassador from hence to the British court, and was well known

to the naval and military gentlemen at Gibraltar, suffered lately in this manner; for in the punishment of these countries, there is little or no regard paid to the quality of the offender. Sometimes, indeed, a pecuniary mulct will stop the course of justice; but if the crime is flagrant, no other than the legislative attonement can be made for it.

THIS government is in alliance with the English, the French, the Dutch, and the Swedes. Great application has been often made by the Porte in behalf of the emperor's subjects; but all in vain, although the Algerines acknowledge themselves to be the vassals of the grand signior, and as such, should be entirely devoted to his orders and commands.

THE Swedes purchased peace of them at the rate of seventy thousand dollars: and as the Algerine cruisers rarely meet with vessels of that nation, this proceeding has been regarded as a mystery. The success which the Dutch met with, during a war against them of twelve years, the magnificent present of naval stores that was promised, on the ratification of the peace,

together with the natural timidity of the Dey, lest, by further losses, he should be reckoned unfortunate, were the chief reasons of their extending their friendship to that republic. It is certain, that the greatest part of the soldiers and naval officers strenuously opposed it, urging that it would be in vain to arm their vessels, when they were at peace with the three trading nations; that their loss was inconsiderable, when compared to the riches they obtained by the war; concluding with this very expressive Arabian proverb, "Persons ought never to sow, who are afraid of sparrows." As the younger soldiers cannot well subsist, without the money that arises from their shares in prizes, there has been no small murmuring at the little success they have lately met with. And it is very probable, that the very moment any considerable addition is made to their fleet, nay, perhaps, without any further augmentation, the present Dey will be obliged to lessen the number of his alliances, from those very principles, which, a few years ago, engaged his predecessors to encrease them.

THE Algerines have certainly a great esteem and friendship for the English nation ; provided there could be any reliance on the appearance of a government, that is guided by chance and humour more than by council and mature deliberation ; it is very probable, that whatever trading nation they may think fit to quarrel with, England has little to apprehend. The Dutch are very industrious in cultivating a good understanding with them, by making them an annual present ; a method hitherto very prevalent and successful : whilst on the other hand, the French may perhaps influence them as much, by putting them in mind of the execution which their bombs did formerly in this city ; and of a later instance of their resentment against Tripoli. They are convinced of the dangers accruing to them from the possessors of Marseilles and Toulon ; but then they are not to be persuaded but that Gibraltar and Minorca are more conveniently situated to give them disturbance. But reason and argument will not always be relished at a court, where the first minister is the cook, where an insolent soldiery have too often

the ordering of the mess. In critical junctures, therefore, the ground is to be maintained by the nice management and address of the consul; who ought to know how to make proper application to the particular passions of those who have the Dey's ear; by flattering one, placing a confidence in another, and especially by making proper use of those invincible arguments, money, gold watches, and other trinkets; for it is an old and infallible saying, "Give a Turk money with one hand, and he will permit his eye to be plucked out by the other."





An Account of a
JOURNEY to PALMYRA,
OTHERWISE
TEDMOR in the DESART.

WITH
A DESCRIPTION of the Remains of the
Ruins of that celebrated City.



C H A P. I.

The design of this undertaking explained.

THE book from which we make this very entertaining extract, was published by Mr. Robert Wood, a gentleman distinguished for his taste and erudition, and well known in polite life; but more

especially as being under-secretary to the honourable Mr. Pitt.

THE enquiry into the curious remains of Palmyra, was set on foot by Mr. Dawkins, a name as dear to all lovers of *la vertu*, as the elegant owner of it is an ornament to society: he was soon joined by Mr. Wood and Mr. Bouverie, a gentleman of science, and universally esteemed; but he died before the task was carried into execution. The fourth person engaged upon this delectable scheme, was an Italian of undoubted skill in architecture and drawing. The rendezvous of this scientific community, was at Rome; where they spent the winter in studying the antient history and geography of the places they intended to visit.

IN spring they set out for Naples, where they met a ship sent from London for their particular use; having on board her a choice collection of Greek historians and poetry, several books of antiquities and voyages, many mathematical instruments and other things, which, in their opinion, might (as presents) be usefully divided among the different Turkish and other noblemen, to

whom they might have occasion to address themselves. Having embarked, they steered for the Archipelago, the most remarkable places of which they visited, as well as part of Greece, Europe, the coasts of the Hellespont, Propontis, &c. up to the Black Sea; together with the inland parts of Asia Minor, Syria, Phœnicia, Palestine, and Egypt.

IN each of these places our voyagers found something particularly relishing to their different tastes and dispositions; but the antient, rather than the modern state of each country, where they touched, was that which more particularly attracted their attention. Places that have been the scene of so many glorious actions, that have given birth to so many great men, cannot be viewed with indifference.

JUSTLY does our judicious author observe, “Circumstances of climate and situation, otherwise trivial, become interesting from that connection with great men and great actions, which they derive from history and poetry. The life of Miltiades or of Leonidas could never be read with so much pleasure as on the plains

“ of Marathon, or at the streights of Ther-
“ mopylæ; the Iliad has new beauties on
“ the banks of the Scamander; and where
“ Ulysses travelled, and Homer wrote and
“ sung, we shall find the Iliad more beau-
“ tiful than ever; description cannot paint
“ what warm imaginations, assisted by
“ learning and taste, feel from such scenes.
“ The place of action throws new light on
“ the historian’s narration, and illustrates
“ the poet’s plan.” In this tour our po-
lite travellers entertained themselves often
with causing their draftsman to delineate
a map of the country; and they measured
the Scamandrian plain with Homer in their
hands.

THEY every where copied inscriptions; and if not prevented by the extortions of avarice, or the folly of superstition, they carried off the antient marbles. In their progress they bought up all the Syrian, Greek, and Arabic MSS. they could lay their hands upon; purchasing every thing of that nature without distinction, hoping that something valuable might fully repay their trouble in searching among a great deal of rubbish. In this respect the Maro-

nite churches of Syria were the most serviceable. They were remarkably curious in inspecting every remains of antient architecture that fell in their way; and their curiosity was, in this point, fully satisfied in many other places besides Lydia, Ionia, and Caria. Having provided themselves with proper tools for digging, they sometimes employed the peasants of the country in that work, and the valuable fragments of antiquity which they recovered, answered all their toil and perplexity. The principal intention of Mr. Dawkins, in this tour, was to compile an history of the three Greek orders of architecture, at least with regard to the changes they underwent from the time of Pericles to that of Dioclesian.





C H A P. II.

*Of the journey through the Defart to Palmyra,
and the present ruined state of the place.*

THERE is no part of a tour through the east so difficult as a journey to Palmyra; because it lies in the Defart, quite out of the common road, and beyond the Grand Signior's protection. However, nothing could deter our virtuosi from pursuing their design; being determined to set out from Aleppo or Damascus. Having endeavoured, to no purpose, to make the first of these cities, they anchored at Byroot, on the coast of Syria; where disembarking, they travelled to Damascus, by the way of mount Libanus, over which they crossed.

HERE they learned that neither the name nor power of the Bashaw of Damascus could be the least security to them; Palmyra being out of his jurisdiction, and under that of an Aga, who resided at Hassia, a

small village, four days journey north of Palmyra.

HASSIA lies on the great carravan-road from Damascus to Aleppo, and the Orontes is but a few hours distant: here they met with a hospitable reception from the Aga, who expressed himself much surprized at their journey; but furnished them, however, with all necessary directions to make it as little troublesome as possible, and gave them an escort of his best Arab horsemen, armed with guns and long pikes; by whom they were in four hours conducted to Sudud, travelling through a barren plain, over-run entirely with antilopes.

SUDUD is a poor village made up of cabins, built only with mud-walls hardened in the sun: the inhabitants are Maronite Christians, who cultivate barely as much land as is necessary for their subsistence, and make tolerable red wine. Here they dined, and having purchased from the priest some Greek MSS. they proceeded to Howareen, at present a poor Turkish village, though, if we may be allowed to judge from its ruins, it was once a place of some

consideration; there being a square tower with projecting battlements, calculated for defence, and two mouldering churches, in the walls of which are several Corinthian capitals, and large Attic bases of white marble. These structures appear to be of near four hundred years standing, though in the composition are found many materials of much older date. Those and other scattered fragments of antiquity about Howareen, appear to have been erected with little taste, though in profusion of expence. Not far off we meet with a village, deserted by its inhabitants, which is often the case in this part of the world, where the people often fly to evade the iron hand of oppression, when the lands have no acquired value from cultivation.

FROM hence to Carieteen the distance is about two hours, keeping upon a southern direction. This village is rather larger than the last, and shews some few broken columns, and Corinthian capitals of marble, with two imperfect Greek inscriptions. They rested here the best part of the second day of their journey, to collect their people, and rest their cattle; because in

this part of the Defart they may easily be loft, there being no fettled ftages, nor any water. By this day's delay all the caravan had time to come up, and being now a more numerous body, were confequently the lefs governable. This inconvenience occafioned their not fetting forward till ten o'clock in the morning, whereby they were all that and the following day obliged to travel without either reft or water; and to make their circumftances ftill worfe, though it was fo early in the feafon, the heat of the fun reflected from the fand was extremely troublefome; neither had they the flighteft breeze to refrefh them, or the thinnest fhade under which they might find fhelter.

THE company confifted now of about two hundred perfons, and their affes, mules, camels, &c. were not lefs numerous. The guide now informed the travellers, that this being the moft dangerous part of the way, it was neceffary they fhould all put themfelves entirely under his direktion. In confequence of which advice, the fervants with the bagagge were ordered to fall back to the rear, there to remain protected by

the Arab escort, from which two or three horsemen, who rode in Tartar fashion, with very short stirrups, &c. were dispatched, for discovery, to every eminence that came in sight. It is hard to say whether this seeming precaution arose from a real apprehension of danger, or else an ostentation of vigilance, in order to give their attendance a greater air of use.

THE road here was N. and by E. thro' a flat sandy plain about ten miles broad, bounded to the right and left by a ridge of barren hills that seem to join within two miles of Palmyra. Nor is there in all the course either trees or water; the sameness of the way and the continued gloominess of the prospect was a little alleviated by the Arab horsemen engaging in mock fights, and performing feats as they rode, in which, while they entertained, they manifested great dexterity, and shewed themselves well skilled in horsemanship. At night they sat themselves down in a circle, and having regaled themselves with coffee and a pipe, one of them diverted the rest with a story or a song, perhaps extemporary, the subject of which was either love or

war. There are the marks of a Maltese cross to be found in several places of the walls of a ruined tower, lying nine hours distance from Carietein: here is also visible a rich marble door-case, that must have belonged to a magnificent structure which is overwhelmed with the sand. At midnight the carravan halted two hours to refresh; and on the 14th of March, about noon, they reached the end of the plain, where the hills appeared to meet: here they found a vale, through which runs a ruined aqueduct that formerly conveyed water to Palmyra. The sepulchres of the antient inhabitants of which city lie thick both on the right and left, being square towers of considerable height.

HAVING passed these venerable monuments, a sudden opening among the hills discovered to the astonished eye a most incredible quantity of magnificent ruins of white marble, and beyond them a flat waste, stretching all the way to the Euphrates. No prospect can be imagined more striking and romantic, more grand and melancholy than such innumerable piles of Co-

rinthian pillars, without any intervening wall or building of the least solidity.

THERE cannot be a greater contrast than subsists between these stupendous ruins of grandeur, and the sorry huts wherein the present Arab inhabitants dwell, and our virtuoso were lodged. Both men and women here are well shaped; their complexions are swarthy, but their features good. They hang rings of either gold or brass, as they can afford, in their noses and ears; they colour their lips blue, their eyes and eye-brows black, and the tips of their fingers red. The female sex, though veiled, are not so reserved as most other eastern women, being easily prevailed upon to throw aside the covering. Both sexes are very healthy, being almost strangers to disease; whence we conclude that the climate is still as wholesome as it was in the days of Longinus, who speaks very well of it in an epistle to Pliny. They have scarcely any rain, but at the time of the equinoxes: and the sky, during our travellers stay here, was extremely serene, except once that it was much darkened by a whirlwind of sand from the Desert, which preceded a shower

of rain, and gave a small idea of those dreadful hurricanes that have been often known to overwhelm whole caravans.

OUR travellers remained in this place fifteen days, during which time the Arab inhabitants supplied them pretty well with mutton and goats flesh; but if they had staid much longer, this sort of fare would have become scarce.

GEOGRAPHERS differ with respect to the situation of Palmyra; some placing it in Syria, some in Arabia, and others in Phœnicia; according to Ptolomy it lies in lat. 34° : on the west it is bounded by a ridge of barren hills; its other sides look upon the Desert. Aleppo and Damascus are equi-distant, about six days journey, reckoning each day's journey eight leagues; the road hither, from the latter, is rather shorter, but infinitely more dangerous than the former. The Euphrates is twenty leagues distant to the westward. The walls, which surround this city, were flanked with square towers; in many parts, particularly on the S. E. nothing of them exists; and from the best computation that Mr. Wood could make, he imagines their

circuit could not have been less than three English miles, provided they include the great temple.

BUT as Palmyra must, when in its flourishing state, have been much more than three miles round, it is not improbable that the old city covered a neighbouring piece of ground, the circumference of which is ten miles, and in every spot of which, the Arabs say, that ruins are turned up upon digging. This is still a more reasonable supposition; when we remember that such fragments of antiquity as are found upon the three miles compass, just now mentioned, could have belonged only to magnificent sepulchres and public edifices of the grandest kind; the most evident proofs that can be of an extensive city. Perhaps then the walls, of which we have just now spoken, inclose only that part of Palmyra which its publick buildings occupied in its most prosperous state; and were fortified, if not erected, by Justinian, who, according to Procopius, judged this a proper place to stem the furious progress of the Saracens. So that from a rich trading city, which it was, we shall

hereafter prove, for private convenience, it was reduced to a frontier garrison.

By closely inspecting this wall, it appears that two or three of the flanking towers on the N. E. were formerly sepulchral monuments; and this is some proof that the walls were posterior to the monuments, and the work of a Christian æra; for the Pagan religion would have condemned the metamorphose as profane; besides, the Greeks and Romans always buried without the walls of their respective cities; and the same custom was religiously observed all over the East.

ON the top of one of the highest rocky hills, N. W. of the ruins of Palmyra, is an old castle; the ascent to which is steep and rugged. It is a mean structure, not so old as the time of Justinian, and unworthy of even the Mamalukes; there is a ditch cut round it, which cannot be passed without some difficulty, the draw-bridge being broken down. In the rock there is a deep hole, intended, perhaps, for a well; but it is now dry. Our travellers were told, that it was built as a place of retreat, by a son of the famous Facardine, while his fa-

ther was in Europe. Some English merchants, who were here in 1691, learned that it had been erected in the latter end of the sixteenth century by Man Ogle, a prince of the Druses; but neither of these accounts agree with the history of that people.

THERE is a very extensive view of the Defart, which looks not unlike the sea from the top of this hill to the south; and the eye can here distinguish the top of mount Libanus on the west, and take the bearings of some part of Antilibanus.

THERE is one building here, the remains of which are extremely magnificent; and this, in Mr. Wood's opinion, was the temple of the sun, which being much damaged by the Roman soldiers, when Aurelian took the town, that emperor ordered, for the expence of repairing it, three hundred pounds weight of gold, taken from the treasures of Zenobia; one thousand eight hundred pounds weight of silver, levied upon the people; besides the jewels of the crown. The solidity and height of the walls of its court, tempted the Turks to convert it into a place of strength, and

there on the N. E. and S. they stopped up the windows, dug a ditch to the W. and demolished the portico of the grand entrance; building in its place a square tower, to flank that side. The court is paved with broad stones; but so covered with rubbish that they are only in a few places perceptible; nor are there any stairs to be seen, whereby it could have communicated with any other part of the building.

To the E. and S. of this temple there are some plantations of olives, and a little corn sowed, protected from the cattle by mud-walls. Did not the Arabs neglect this spot, they might make it extremely agreeable, by properly distributing two streams, wherewith it is watered. These, though hot and sulphurous, are by the inhabitants counted wholesome and agreeable. The most considerable of these streams rises W. of the ruins, at the foot of the fountains, in a grotto almost high enough to admit of a man's standing upright; the whole bottom is a basin of clear water, about two feet deep, and the place, on account of the heats, being confined, is used as a bath; from it there runs a smart cur-

rent through a channel three feet across, and one foot deep; but after a short course it is lost in the sand. By an old inscription found here, on an altar sacred to Jupiter, we learn that this stream was much esteemed while Palmyra flourished, it being under the care of certain people elected thereto by ballot.

THE other stream, the source whereof Mr. Wood does not fix, contains near the same quantity of water; and, after running for some time through the ruins, in an antient aqueduct, joins the first stream, wherewith it sinks into the sand. The Arabs speak of a third stream that has been for some time lost among the rubbish. As we have no reason to imagine that the waters of Palmyra have undergone any alteration but what has purely risen from neglect, we are surpris'd that no mention is made of them by the English merchants who were formerly here, they being certainly as much worth notice, as the Pactolus, the Meles, and other Grecian rivers, and contain rather more water, except in times of rain.

THE town was, however, well enough

supplied by water, conveyed to it through an aqueduct, of which we before took some notice; it is said by some people to extend as far as the mountains of Damascus. It was solidly built under ground, and had openings in several places to keep it clean. There are a few inscriptions on it in Palmyrene characters; but none of them legible.

THE valley of Salt, whence Damascus and the neighbouring towns are supplied with that commodity, lies in the Desert, three or four miles S. E. of the ruins of Palmyra. In this place David is supposed to have smote the Syrians, as mentioned in II. Samuel, chap. 8. ver. 13. The ground is impregnated with salt to a considerable depth. Here they have a way of hollowing the ground to about a foot deep, and from the rain water, which lodges therein, a fine white salt is gathered.



C H A P. III.

Some conjectures advanced concerning the antient state of Palmyra.

THE present grand remains of Palmyra are too striking and magnificent, to admit of our being indifferent with respect to its condition in antient times: wherefore we shall here attempt to throw some lights upon it, by examining who was its founder, how a spot like this, divided by an inhospitable desert from the rest of the world, came to be chosen for its situation; and from what quarter it drew the riches necessary to its support.

Is it not a little strange that history scarcely furnishes us with any information, except such as is purely conjectural, concerning either Balbec or Palmyra? and yet we no where else find such noble remains of antiquity, of which, however, we have little or no knowledge but that which is supplied by inscriptions. Does not this want convey instruction, and convince us

of the emptiness of vanity, of the instability of human grandeur? The fate of these two cities differs from every other; we have no testimonies of what they were, but their own noble fragments: while, though not a single stone marks the situation of Troy, Babylon, and Memphis, we are by books sufficiently acquainted with their importance and changes of fortune. This chasm in history may be perhaps owing to the loss of books; or perhaps the ancients did not look upon the buildings of these places as worth their regard, being vastly inferior to many others which they boasted. If the latter be a true state of the case, is not our admiration of their works very excusable? May not their silence, in regard of Balbec, justify what they advance about Babylon? and their not mentioning Palmyra, be a sort of proof of the magnificence of Greece and Egypt?

MR. Wood, in order to settle an enquiry into the history of Palmyra upon a sure footing, presents us with such materials as he could collect concerning it, in a short review of the revolutions of Syria.

IN the Arabic translation of the Chro-

nicles, book ii. chap. 8. Palmyra is mentioned as subsisting before the days of Solomon; but John of Antioch, surnamed Malala, informs us, that it was built by that monarch on the very spot where his father slew the Philistine chief, and in honour of that memorable action. Abul Farai goes farther; and among many other peculiarities, sets down the year of its foundation: but these and other accounts of the earlier state of Palmyra are not to be regarded; for which reason we shall go on to such historical authority as may merit quotation from its character of veracity.

WE find, in the 9th chapter of the first book of Kings, and the 8th of the 2d of Chronicles, that Solomon erected a city in the Wilderness, and called it Tedmor: and we are told by Josephus, in the first book of his Antiquities, that some time after the Greeks and Romans distinguished it by the name of Palmyra, even whilst its first name was still retained by the Syrians: and this is confirmed by St. Jerom, who says, that Tedmor and Palmyra are the Syrian and Greek names of the same place; and the country Arabs, even at this time, call

it by the former name. In this circumstance they are remarkably particular, preserving the antient denomination of places thro' various revolutions; and in spite of others given by the Turks or aliens. Thus the Acca of the Old Testament is at this day called by them Acca; and the Greek name Ptolemais, in which that of Acca was for some time swallowed up, is lost through difuse.

OUR curious enquirer does not pretend absolutely to assert that these ruins were the works of Solomon. He only delivers such an opinion as being that of the present inhabitants, who, among many other particulars, point out the wise man's seraglio, the tomb of his favourite concubine, &c. &c. and say, "All these things were done by Solomon the son of David, assisted by spirits."

HOWEVER, such structures as might have been here erected by Solomon, we will suppose to have been entirely demolished by Nebuchadnezzar, who, in his march to the siege of Jerusalem, destroyed this city, as we are assured by John of Antioch. For it is almost improbable, that buildings in

such elegant style, could be prior to the footing of the Greeks in Syria; and taking this for granted, we shall not be surprized that Xenophon takes no notice of it in his retreat of Cyrus the younger, tho' he is very exact in describing the Desert. Neither shall we wonder that it is not mentioned by Alexander, who passed also thro' the Desert, in his way to Thepsacus on the Euphrates, where he crossed the river, as well as Darius and Cyrus the younger.

FROM its situation between Antioch and Seleucia, and its being an important barrier against the Parthians, one would imagine it had been built by some of the Seleucidæ; though we can find nothing of it in their history: and yet no time is so proper to enquire about it, as from the death of Alexander to the reduction of Syria to a Roman province.

THAT the æra of Seleucus was used at Palmyra is proved by many inscriptions, whence it may be inferred that the place submitted to Alexander, and was for some time governed by his successors; but this evidence could not be looked upon as absolute proof, were it not supported by col-

lateral facts; because it might have reasonably been said, that the inhabitants of Palmyra used the æra of the Seleucidæ only, as common with their neighbours. Let us go farther; and we shall not find this city taken any notice of, even when Pompey reduced Syria to a Roman province, and when a taste for the polite arts began to be so prevalent, that architecture, painting, and sculpture, were objects not unworthy of the attention of a Roman general.

Is it not unaccountable that a place like Palmyra, capable of gratifying both avarice and knowledge, should not as yet be known? Nor is the name admitted to a place in history, till Appian, in the fifth book of his Civil Wars, speaks of Mark Anthony as attempting to plunder it; but the inhabitants escaped by crossing the river Euphrates with their best effects, and defending the passage with arrows. At this time, says our author, the Palmyrenes were merchants; they supplied the Romans with the commodities of Arabia and the Indies; and his real motive for attacking them was to enrich his troops: tho'

to give his conduct the colour of justice, he advanced, that they had broken the neutrality subsisting between the Romans and the Parthians. Thus then it is plain that they were a wealthy free people in the time of Mark Anthony, but how long they had been so we are left to guess. Their riches and trade must have been of some standing; and in forty years after they ran into expences and luxuries, that must have required a considerable capital, as we are taught by their inscriptions: nor are we more clear as to the time of their becoming a free people.

DR. Halley, in his dissertation on the ancient state of Palmyra, published in the Philosophical Transactions, gives it as his opinion, “ That when the Romans got footing in these parts, and the Parthians seemed to put a stop to their farther conquests in the east, then was the city of Palmyra, by reason of its situation, being a frontier town in the midst of a sandy desert, where armies could not subsist to reduce it by force, courted and caressed by the contending princes, and permitted to continue a free state.” But

their freedom must have been of a much older standing than what the doctor here imagines; because their importance as a frontier town, was as considerable before as after the Roman conquests. We come now to the only antient account of this place extant; it is delivered down to us by Pliny, who, though he has collected the most striking circumstances concerning it, yet omits to mention the buildings: but we should first observe, that the name and every thing else relating to this noble city, was overlooked by the curious and accurate Strabo, one of the most faithful of all antient geographers.

“ THE city of Palmyra is nobly situated,
 “ the soil is rich, and it is pleasantly wa-
 “ tered; it is on all sides furrounded by a
 “ vast sandy desert, which totally separates
 “ it from the rest of the world, and has
 “ preserved its independence between the
 “ two great empires of Rome and Parthia;
 “ their first care when at war being to en-
 “ gage it in their interest: it is distant from
 “ the Parthian Seleucia on the Tigris 337
 “ miles; from the highest part of the Me-

“diterranean 283; and 176 from Damascus.”

ALL those circumstances strongly characterise Palmyra, its situation being very fine, having a ridge of hills to the west, and commanding an extensive plain to the east: on the hills formerly stood many sepulchral monuments, some of which are still to be seen, inspiring with awe and veneration.

THE glebe is still rich, and the streams, of which we have before spoken, are very clear and capable of receiving any direction: what Ptolomy, who makes mention of the Palmyrenes, means by the river at Palmyra, is very probably the channel through which these streams flow when united. The several channels of these streams were lined with stone, to prevent the water from being soaked up; and this precaution being now neglected, it is soon lost in the sand. There is some little verdure about the town, and small pains would make the neighbourhood fertile. Though the palm-tree, which will flourish in the driest soil, once perhaps covered these hills, and great part of the Desert, none of them

are now to be found here, nor more than one fig-tree; though the merchants, who travelled hither in 1691 from Aleppo, saw several; and Albufedah mentions both the palm and fig as common at Palmyra.

NOTHING is said of this place either in the expeditions of Trajan or Adrian; and yet it is certain, that both of these emperors must have passed either through or near it. The latter indeed, according to Stephanus, repaired and gave it the name of Andrianople; but we cannot look upon this report as authentic, when we look back and behold Adrian complimented for less considerable works in many parts of Greece.

FROM Caracalla's coins, it appears that in this prince's time it was a Roman colony; and some old inscriptions inform us, that the people joined Alexander Severus against the Persians. The most remarkable figure which Palmyra cut in history was in the reign of Gallienus; and of this entertaining æra we shall strive to give a concise account after Zosimus, Vopiscus, and Trebellius Pollio.



C H A P. IV.

Account of the antient state of Palmyra continued; with an abstract of the history of the famous queen Zenobia.

UNDER the shameful indolence of Gallienus, the Roman glory in the east was daily more obscured; when Odenathus joining that emperor's party, collected the poor remains of the discomfitted Romans in Syria, whom he led against Sapor king of Persia, routed his army, and advanced with his victorious troops as far as Ctesiphon, the capital of the empire. On his return from this expedition, possessed of vast wealth, and adored by the Romans as their saviour, he was unanimously declared Augustus, and co-partner of the empire with Gallienus.

THIS Odenathus was a native of Palmyra, but we have no account either of his rank or family; he was courageous and active, remarkably patient of fatigue, and

so admirable a politician, that he for a while held the ballance of power between the empires of Persia and of Rome. His defeat of Balista, who in those times of confusion was a dangerous enemy to the Roman power, at the possession of which he aspired, added considerably to his reputation. Balista had served under Valerian with honour; and from his private character, as well as his being particularly regarded by that prince, we have reason to conclude that the overthrowing him was a very signal piece of service. His driving the Goths out of Asia Minor, where they had committed the most violent outrages, was his last great action; and it is thought that in this expedition, he was treacherously slain by his kinsman Mæonius. His son Herodes, who differed greatly from his father, being delicate and luxurious to excess, soon after suffered the same fate: nor did Mæonius long survive, though he had been saluted emperor, being cut to pieces by the soldiery.

THE accounts of Odenathus, which have reached posterity, serve rather to sharpen than satisfy curiosity: it is on all sides a-

greed, that he was a man of great abilities and excellent qualifications. Libanius mentions an oration written in his praise by Longinus, which is lost; and Pollio says, that had he not engaged in the Roman interest, it must at that time have been entirely ruined in the east: nay, he reckons his death a sort of judgment upon that people.

THE fortune of his queen Zenobia, who survived him, was various and surprizing, her character great and extraordinary; by her he is said to have left issue two sons, Hereniacus and Timolaus: but her memory is soiled with a supposition of her having consented to the deaths of both Odenathus and Herodes; yet this being only mentioned as report, without any certain foundation, to treat it as apocryphal is a compliment which we owe to the remembrance of a woman, otherwise so well and so deservedly spoken of.

HER complexion was dark brown, owing perhaps rather to her hardy manner of living than to constitution; her eyes were black, sparkling with uncommon lustre; her teeth exceedingly white; her

countenance was sprightly; her voice strong and clear; her air noble, and her person graceful and genteel: her strength was uncommonly great; she inured herself much to fatigue, was fond of riding, never used any carriage, and often marched three or four miles on foot at the head of her soldiers: nor can we have a finer idea of a beautiful Minerva, than arises from supposing her harranguing her army in a helmet. In council she was cautious and prudent, in executing bold and resolute: she could be open or reserved, mild or severe, at her own option, and never was either out of season; she was generous, but never profuse, and so chaste, that her only end in marriage is said to have been propagation. Her religion is disputed; by some she is supposed to have been a Jew, but this is not a settled point.

SHE boasted herself descended from Ptolemy, and reckoned Cleopatra among her ancestry. In her dress, and manner of giving audience, she emulated the Persian pomp, but in her banquets imitated the Romans, and drank out of golden cups set with precious stones. Pollio tells us that

ſhe often drank with her officers; and that, though ſhe was moderate in the uſe of liquors, drinking was a ſport at which ſhe could beat both Perſians and Armenians. This was a power which we may ſuppoſe ſhe uſed politically, to forward her ſchemes, and arrive at a true knowledge of people's different diſpoſitions. No woman was better acquainted with hiſtory, and ſhe abridged that of Alexandria and the Eaſt: ſhe was perfect miſtreſs of the Greek and Egyptian tongues, as well as of the Latin, which ſhe tranſlated into the former, but was diffident of ſpeaking it.

HAVE we not reaſon to be angry with Pollio for being ſo very particular in things of but ſmall conſequence relating to this great queen, ſuch as her teeth and complexion, and yet being ſilent in things of much greater importance, ſuch as the battles ſhe fought, or the laws which ſhe enacted, ſince for theſe we muſt have reſource to the hiſtory of her cotemporary Roman emperors, with which hers is particularly connected? That ſhe attended her huſband in the field is a matter not to be conteſted, ſince the emperor Aurelian at-

tributes to her the honour of his victories over the Persians, as may be seen by his letters to the senate.

AFTER the death of Odenathus, Zenobia assumed the reins of government in the name of her children, and, renouncing the alliance with Rome, attacked and totally routed Heraclianus the Roman general, who was sent against the Persians, he himself narrowly escaping from falling into her hands. This victory in some measure gratified her ambition, as it left her in quiet possession of Syria and Mesopotamia. With her reasons for breaking the engagements of her family with the Romans we are not acquainted, but she will be easily excused for the breach by such as consider the hateful character of Gallienus, who was a few months after murdered at Milan. The incapacity of this prince was great: in lewdness he excelled Heliogabalus, in cruelty he outdid Nero: his misconduct had thrown the Roman affairs into great perplexity; his vices were innumerable, and he had no good quality but a love of letters. How different was the character of his successor Claudius, who,

possessed of the valour of Trajan, the piety of Antoninus, and the moderation of Augustus, applied himself to reforming the state! The task was inconceivably difficult, yet from his progress we have room to believe, that, had he reigned long enough, he would have restored happiness and tranquillity to the empire. While the exigency of publick affairs claimed the attention of Claudius nearer home, Zenobia asserted an hereditary right to the dominion of Egypt, as being descended from Ptolemy; and having secured a strong party there in her favour, headed by a person called Timogenes, she sent thither Zabdas, a gallant officer, who had been bred under Odenathus; and he, defeating the Egyptian army, possessed himself of the province, which he left under a guard of five thousand men, and then returned to Palmyra.

AN account of this action reaching Probus, the prefect of Egypt, then on a naval expedition against some dangerous pirates that infested the neighbouring seas, he returned, and not only drove the Palmyrenes from their new acquisition, but routed Zabdas, who came to their assist-

ance with a good army; however, in endeavouring totally to cut off the retreat of the vanquished, through his ignorance of the country he exposed himself to a surprize, in which his troops were totally defeated, and himself taken prisoner; a disgrace which he could not outlive, but, dying by his own hand, left Zenobia mistress of Egypt; and she afterwards added to her dominions the best part of Asia Minor.

HER progress alarmed Claudius very much, who, being now near the end of the second year of his reign, resolved to turn his forces against her, but was cut off by the plague at Syrmium in Pannonia. He was succeeded by Aurelian, who was not however secured in his power without some trouble, and who, before he thought of relieving the eastern empire, reformed the police at Rome, and reduced the Goths, Vandals, and Germans. These great tasks being compleated, he crossed the Bosphorus at Bizantium, and having taken Tyana in Cappadocia, after some little opposition, he proceeded to Antioch, of which he possessed himself by stratagem. By two battles, one fought here, the other

at Emesa, Aurelian recovered the eastern provinces, and forced the queen to shelter herself from his victorious arms within the walls of her capital. In the former of these engagements the excellency of the Palmyrene cavalry had like to have proved fatal to the Romans, who owed their safety entirely to their superior skill in the art of war.

How strange, how unaccountable are the vicissitudes of fortune! a woman, governing a small and insignificant territory in a desert, possesses herself of the dominions of the Ptolomies and Seleucidæ; Egypt owns her sway to the southward, to the northward her conquests extend even to the Black Sea and the Bosphorus, and a single city, the history of which is almost entirely unknown, becomes the capital of a most extensive empire. Its reign was not indeed of long continuance, and a very short time shews its glory fallen, its superb buildings in ruins.

AURELIAN having taken all necessary precautions to supply his army with provisions, proceeds to Palmyra, not without being considerably harraßed in his march

by the Syrian banditti. Arriving at length before the walls of the town, he laid close siege to it, and was gallantly resisted by the garrison. Being wearied out with military operations, the emperor had recourse to negociations, and made some offers to Zenobia, which she rejected with contempt and insolence, bidding him remember that her ancestor Cleopatra preferred death to disgrace and dishonour; yet even at this time her affairs were in the most desperate state. This conduct exasperated Aurelian very much; he pushed a general attack with more vigour than ever upon the town, where provisions were growing scarce, while the Roman army was in no fear of wanting; and at the same time he vanquished Zenobia's Persian auxiliaries, and bought off the Saracens and Armenians from assisting her.

THE besieged, being reduced almost to the last extremity, had no resource but that of applying to their allies the Persians, in the most pressing manner, for succour: and this resolution being agreed upon in council, Zenobia herself undertook the carrying of it into execution, and, mounting

a dromedary, set out for Persia, but was taken prisoner as she was about to cross the Euphrates, by a party of horse dispatched after her to that end by Aurelian. The city soon after surrendered to the emperor's mercy, who spared the inhabitants, but carried off the best part of their riches, leaving behind him a garrison of six hundred archers, who in some years after were cut off by the inhabitants, most of whom were, by the emperor's order, in consequence of the massacre, put to death, and the town quite ruined.

AT Emesa the emperor set on foot an enquiry into the conduct of Zenobia, and her reasons for it; and here it was she stained her before great character, and sullied all her laurels, by betraying her best friends, whom the emperor sacrificed to his resentment; among them was the renowned Longinus, who wrote upon the sublime. It was this philosopher that prevailed upon her to reject the terms of peace which Aurelian had offered to Zenobia, and he was said to have dictated a very haughty letter, which she had written to him at the same time. He met his fate

with an intrepidity that throws additional lustre round his character, and his mistress was reserved to grace a Roman triumph. She afterwards married, and had children at Conche, on the road from Rome to the antient Tibur, where the emperor assigned some lands for her maintenance; and the remains of her villa are to this day shewn to travellers.

PALMYRA having now intirely lost its liberty, was undoubtedly governed by the Romans, and, from a Latin inscription still extant, we are informed, that Hierocles was for the fifth time president of the provinces when Dioclesian erected here some magnificent buildings, the remains of which prove that the art of architecture was in a flourishing condition in that emperor's time; though Sir William Temple is of opinion, that Trajan's bridge over the Danube was the last instance given by the antients of their proficiency in that science.

IN the year of Christ 400 the first Illyrian legion was quartered here, but Procopius gives us reason to think that the place was so little regarded as to be sometimes left without a Roman garrison; for he says

that Justinian repaired and supplied it with water, after its having been for some time near quite deserted; and then left behind him some soldiers.

THE Roman history makes no farther mention of Palmyra.

THAT church-history does not furnish us with any intelligence concerning this town, will not appear surprizing, when it is remémbered, that from the civil revolutions of it, it appears that Christianity could not have been long the established religion. Its various fortunes from the time of Mahomet are very obscure. That it was used as a place of strength is proved by the alterations made in the castle on the hill, and the temple of the sun, which must have been intended for defence, and are not more than five or six hundred years old. There were two thousand Jews among the inhabitants of Palmyra in the twelfth century, according to the account of Benjamin Tudulensis, an ignorant superstitious traveller of that sect, who then passed through here.

FEW Aralian writers make any mention of this place; among those that do, the

best is Albufeday, prince of the neighbouring city of Hamak, who, ignorant probably both of its history and Greek name, calls it Tedmor, describes its situation, soil, and properties, speaks of its antient columns, and tells us it had a wall and a castle; but is it not strange that many of the best writers on antient geography who make mention of Palmyra, seem ignorant of its ruins; and which, had they been used in fortifying places, a common case in war, had it stood conveniently, might perhaps have never been missed? Can there be a stronger instance of the precarious fate of even the greatest monuments of human pride and art?

IN the latter end of the seventeenth century Palmyra was visited by some English merchants belonging to Aleppo, who, being plundered by the Arabs, were obliged to turn back, without having seen it; however, they renewed their attempt thirteen years afterwards, and succeeded, remaining here four days to satisfy their curiosity. A short account of this expedition was published in the Philosophical Transactions; it is penned with great truth and candor,

and occasioned Dr. Halley to write an account of its antient history, with some remarks on the inscriptions found there; as also a commentary upon them, and a history of the place by abbè Seller: the latter of these, according to Mr. Wood, is diffuse and incorrect, the former too short; however, he says that they were both useful to him in his enquiry, in which no man could have been more exact, and from which it appears to him, that the buildings of Palmyra were repaired by Adrian, Aurelian, Justinian, and, lastly, by Dioclesian.



C H A P. V.

*Enquiry into the antient state of Palmyra
continued.*

OUR author imagines, that among the remains of Palmyra the ruins of two different periods of antiquity may be easily discerned; the older owing its dissolution to time, the other bearing all the marks of violence; yet, upon the whole,

there is a greater likeness in the architecture of this place than can be observed either at Rome, Athens, or other great cities. The inscriptions here are badly done, being mostly honorary, and some few sepulchral; the names are generally in Palmyrene characters, and the latest have Roman prenomina. From them it is plain that some of the buildings were standing before the birth of Christ, nor any of them so modern as the destruction of the city by Aurelian, the one in Latin excepted, which mentions Dioclesian.

THE intelligence regarding the history of this place to be gathered either from the inscriptions, cameos, intaglios, or medals found here, was very trifling; of the latter they only found a few Roman in brass, of the lower empire. Among all the antient fragments of Palmyra there is not the least mention of Zenobia to be traced: ‘Perhaps,’ says the ingenious Dr. Halley, ‘the Romans, irritated at her resistance and courage, defaced every thing that was intended to do her honour; or, it may possibly be, that the shortness and continued confusion of her reign prevent-

‘ed her from receiving any monumental
‘ oblations either from compliment or flat-
‘ tery.’

PALMYRA must have been an admirable situation, and much frequented on account of its water by all people who passed between the Mediterranean and the Euphrates, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that it was the high road to the Indies before the Portuguese discovered the Cape of Good Hope. There seems to be no doubt but that the face of the country was then the same that it is now, for the Desert is as little liable to change as any part of the world. The supply of water which it boasts, and the scarcity of this useful commodity, every where round, was, according to Josephus, Solomon’s reason for building upon this spot which he found watered.

THE Persians, when possessed of Asia, endeavoured to water the Desert by means of aqueducts running under ground from mount Taurus, but these being easily destroyed, lasted but a very short time; every person however who brought water hither had a property in land granted for five generations. As without that element

an army could not subsist in passing the Desert, the first care on each side was to secure water, as was the case in the war between Antiochus the Great and Arsaces.

PERHAPS at the time that Palmyra flourished most of its inhabitants were so intent upon cultivating the commercial arts, that they avoided at any rate interfering with the quarrels of their neighbours, whence they drew obvious advantages; and thus may the silence of history with regard to it be easily accounted for, a country thus peaceably employed affording none of those striking incidents which history delights to record. ‘The Desert,’ says the judicious Mr. Wood, ‘was to Palmyra what the sea is to Great Britain, both its riches and defence.’

It is not easy to decide what were the connections of the Palmyrenes with the Romans before the time of Odenathus. In the reign of Caracalla they were a Roman colony; that they assisted Alexander Severus against Artaxerxes proves only an alliance; and whether their having in some of their inscriptions erased names that were odious to the Roman republick, and

in others acquiesced in the deification awarded to two of the deceased Cæsars, mean merely a compliment paid to friends and allies? or argues a closer interest in their religion and politicks? is what we leave the reader to determine.

THEIR sudden fall from ease and opulence to confusion and poverty, is easily accounted for. Palmyra subsisted only by commerce; that vanished with their liberty; the people then, being out of the road of increasing their stock, lived upon what Aurelian had spared them, as long as it lasted; when that was wasted, they deserted the town through necessity, to seek a more comfortable situation.

JUSTINIAN knew that it was a valuable frontier, and therefore he fortified it. If the Turks seem ignorant of its value in this light, it is because of the weakness of the Persians, whose intestine commotions prevent their making any advances on this side. And, moreover, the insolence and incursions of the neighbouring Arabs would make the support of a garrison here troublesome and expensive, yet, should they lose Bagdat, these inconveniences must be

obviated, and Palmyra be again fortified. That the ruins are so great and entire must be owing principally to the climate's being dry, and there being no other city any where near that might have applied the ruins to other uses.

THE most perfect piece of antiquity which our author ever saw is a Mausoleum, now one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four years old, the floors and stairs of which are still entire, though the building consists of five stories. An inscription upon it still legible informs us, that it was built by Jambelicus, son of Mocimus, as a burial-place for himself and his family in the year 314, which answers to the third year of the Christian æra. This is the oldest building in the place. The most modern is that of Dioclesian before-mentioned, and the space between the erecting of each is about three hundred years.

THE Palmyrenes were assuredly Pagans, but that they had an high veneration for the sun in common with their Syrian neighbours, appears from the magnificent temple erected to that divinity, the remains of which are still to be seen.

HISTORY tells us that their government was republican, but we have no traces left either of their laws or police. The only literary performance of theirs which has escaped the devastations of time is, *Longinus's treatise on the sublime*, whence we have great reason to judge favourably of the state of letters among them. We know but little of their manners and customs. From Pollio we learn that Zenobia, with all her military virtues, was fond of the Persian luxury, and that Herodes, the son of Odenathus, was one of the most delicate creatures in the world, *Homo omnium delicatissimus*, &c.

As, from their situation, agriculture and rural improvements could enter but little into their plan of life, the great magnificence of their buildings in the city wherein all their pleasures as well as their business centered, is more easily accounted for. But that there should be no remains of a theatre, a circus, or any place for publick games, is really surprizing, when the love which the Greeks and Romans had for these sort of diversions is recollected, and no antient buildings better resist the assaults

of time, our travellers in their tour thro' Asia Minor having seen above twenty marble theatres, most of them pretty entire: yet it is very probable that these people had their publick games, since, in one of the inscriptions still extant, Zenobius is complimented for his liberality during the time that he filled the office of ædile, a magistrate that superintended the publick diversions, as well as the regulation of the market, in which latter employment I do not see how he could have exercised that virtue. In the magnificence of their monuments they approached very near the Egyptians, and they copied their methods of embalming exactly, though our author complains he could not find an entire mummy any where here, the Arabs having spoiled the monuments in hope of finding treasure; however, he procured the hair of a woman platted according to the method used at this day in Arabia.

‘ FROM these few hints,’ says Mr. Wood, ‘ we see that the people of Palmyra copied ‘ after great models in their manners, their ‘ vices, and their virtues: their funeral ‘ customs were from Egypt, their luxury

‘ was Persian, and their letters and arts
‘ were from the Greeks. Their situation
‘ in the midst of these three great nations
‘ makes it reasonable to suppose they a-
‘ dopted several other of their customs and
‘ manners; but to say much more on that
‘ head from our scanty materials, would
‘ be to indulge too much in mere conjec-
‘ ture, which seems rather the privilege of
‘ the reader than of the writer.

‘ How much it is to be regretted that
‘ we do not know more of a country which
‘ has left such monuments of its magnifi-
‘ cence, where Zenobia was queen, and
‘ Longinus was first minister!’

F I N I S.



